

Butterflies *of*

South Africa's National Botanical Gardens

**An illustrated
checklist**

**Compiled by
Christopher Willis
& Steve Woodhall**



16

South Africa's National Botanical Gardens

www.sanbi.org



Free State NBG,
Bloemfontein



Hantam NBG
Mierwoodville



Pretoria NBG
Pretoria



Karoo Desert NBG
Worcester



national
biodiversity
institute
SANBI



KwaZulu-Natal NBG
Pietermaritzburg



Krattenbosch NBG
Cape Town



Harold Porter NBG
Betty's Bay



Lowveld NBG
Nelspruit



Walter Sisulu NBG
Roodepoort/Mogale City



SANBI Biodiversity Series 16

Butterflies
of
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Botanical Gardens

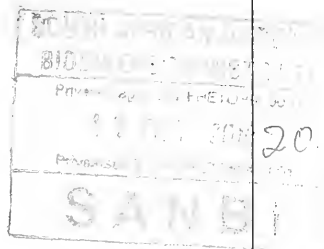
An illustrated checklist

compiled by

Christopher K. Willis & Steve E. Woodhall



SOUTH AFRICAN
national
biodiversity
institute
S A N B I



Pretoria
2010



SANBI Biodiversity Series

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was established on 1 September 2004 through the signing into force of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) No. 10 of 2004 by President Thabo Mbeki. The Act expands the mandate of the former National Botanical Institute to include responsibilities relating to the full diversity of South Africa's fauna and flora, and builds on the internationally respected programmes in conservation, research, education and visitor services developed by the National Botanical Institute and its predecessors over the past century.

The vision of SANBI: Biodiversity richness for all South Africans.

SANBI's mission is to champion the exploration, conservation, sustainable use, appreciation and enjoyment of South Africa's exceptionally rich biodiversity for all people.

SANBI Biodiversity Series publishes occasional reports on projects, technologies, workshops, symposia and other activities initiated by or executed in partnership with SANBI.

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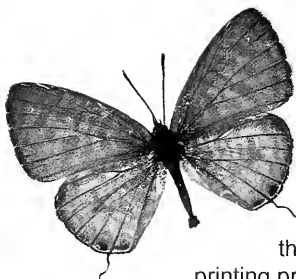
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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
Lepidopterists' Society of Africa	iv
Introduction	1
Pioneers of butterfly exploration in South Africa	4
How to use the Checklist	6
Conservation status	7
New records	7
National Botanical Gardens	7
Most widespread butterflies recorded in South Africa's National Botanical Gardens	8
Alphabetical quick index to common names	9
Checklist of butterflies	15
Glossary	220
References and further reading	222
Indices	224



Photo: Christopher Willis



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This consolidated checklist would not have been possible without access to the published and unpublished results of past surveys conducted in various Gardens by members of LepSoc, as well as university students and amateur naturalists over many years. Their contributions towards a greater understanding of the biodiversity within South Africa's National Botanical Gardens are sincerely appreciated.

Lepidopterists' Society of Africa

The Lepidopterists' Society of Southern Africa (LepSoc) was established as the Lepidoptera Study Group of Southern Africa in 1983. It is an organisation not for gain, but to promote both professional and amateur lepidopterists' interest, with the main objective of significantly contributing to the overall knowledge of the diversity, taxonomy, habitats, distribution and life cycles of this fascinating group of insects.

LepSoc has its own journal, *Metamorphosis*, and the Society has published or assisted in the publication of many books and papers on African lepidoptera. Examples are the *South African Red Data Book: butterflies* (Henning *et al.* 2009), the *South African Red Data Book—butterflies* (Henning & Henning 1989), and *A Practical Guide to Butterflies and Moths* in 1992.

During the 1990s, the focus of LepSoc shifted from providing a communication medium for specialists and collectors to becoming a truly conservation-focused organisation. Members were instrumental in creating three reserves to protect endangered butterflies. As far back as 1985, the Ruimsig Entomological Reserve in Roodepoort, close to the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, was set aside to conserve the Roodepoort Copper *Aloeides dentatis dentatis*. Then there was

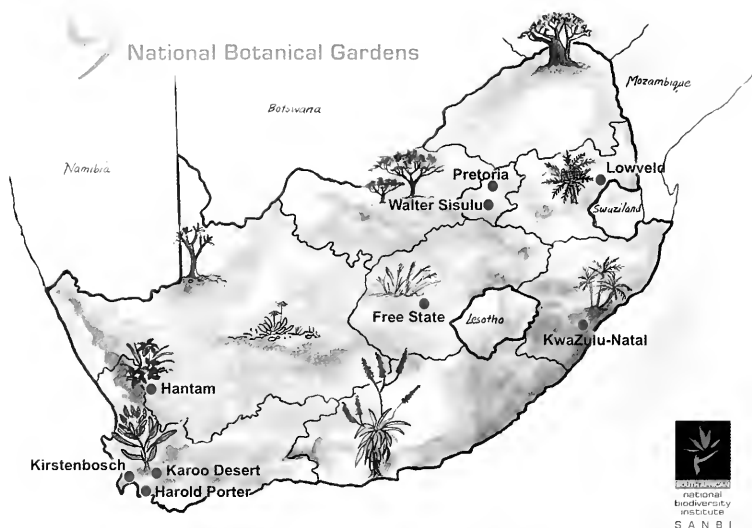
the battle to preserve the last colony of the Brenton Blue *Orachrysops niobe*. The Brenton Blue Butterfly Reserve is now a Special Nature Reserve, under the management of CapeNature. In 1998, members were pivotal in identifying a strong population of the Heidelberg Copper *Chrysoritis aureus* at the Alice Glockner Nature Reserve near Heidelberg, Gauteng. This helped to remove a threat hanging over this reserve, proclaimed in 1973, of being de-proclaimed for low-cost housing.

One of the most significant developments that have taken the Society to where it is today has been the database collating system Lepidops, and the database itself, Lepibase. Conceived in 1998, it now has tens of thousands of data and is the prime vehicle for members to record their observations and collections.

The main project in which the Society is currently involved, is the Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA), in collaboration with SANBI and the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town. The project, started in May 2007, is aimed at determining the distribution and conservation priorities of all butterfly species in southern Africa (South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland), especially those threatened with extinction. Realising that the scope of the project was so large that the small band of lepidopterists in the Society could not possibly hope to provide all the data required, SABCA provided for public participation in the form of a Virtual Museum.

One of the main priorities of LepSoc is to make it easier for people to become a member and learn more about butterflies. The LepSoc website (www.lepsoc.org.za) has been upgraded to allow electronic subscriptions. The *Newsletter* will become an electronic newspaper informing members as to what has been happening in the world of African Lepidoptera—and what events are planned in the near future. *Metamorphosis* will continue to be the Society's journal in which articles of both scientific and general interest are published, but LepSoc will introduce another form of membership, totally electronic, based on the periodical electronic newsletter. The focus on education and data collection will continue and more events will take place.





Biodiversity richness benefiting all South Africans

Figure 1. Map showing the geographical spread of South Africa's National Botanical Gardens (see also www.sanbi.org). Map drawn by Linette Ferreira.



Photo: Christopher Willis

Introduction

Butterflies have formed one of the more visible, but not always noticed components of the biodiversity of South Africa's National Botanical Gardens (NBGs) since Kirstenbosch was established in 1913. With the transition of the National Botanical Institute (NBI) to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in September 2004, the mandate of the organisation expanded from its main focus on plants to include all aspects of biological diversity.

So far 205 butterfly taxa have been recorded in the nine National Botanical Gardens combined, with more butterflies recorded in the Gardens in the northern (Gauteng) and eastern (Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal) parts of South Africa than those in the Free State, Northern Cape and Western Cape (Table 1). This represents 26% of South Africa's 801 known butterfly taxa (Henning *et al.* 2009). This is a remarkable statistic considering that the surface area of South Africa's nine National Botanical Gardens combined (7 738 ha or 77.38 km²) comprises only 0.006% of the country's total surface area (1 214 099 km²). While 122 (29%) of the 420 butterfly taxa of KwaZulu-Natal have so far been recorded within the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden's (Pietermaritzburg) 47 ha (0.47 km²) surface area, this comprises a disproportionate 0.0005% of the 92 100 km² total surface area of the province.

Butterflies are probably the most popular order of insects among the general public and serve as important flagships for the public's perception of invertebrate conservation. Additionally, many butterflies are threatened owing largely to habitat loss and modification. Botanical gardens have an important local conservation value for butterflies and other insects. Indeed, they often have more insects than surrounding indigenous vegetation because of their plant diversity. The wide variety of indigenous plants in South Africa's National Botanical Gardens (classified as 'conservation gardens' because they all contain areas of natural vegetation in addition to their cultivated collections) provides both food and shelter for insects, including butterflies. Availability of adult nectar sources is an important factor in determining butterfly numbers, with habitat selection often based on nectar sources in preference to larval food plants. Design features most valuable in attracting butterflies are abundant nectar sources, preferably in sheltered, sunny situations.

Although our knowledge of the Gardens' faunal diversity is still at an embryonic stage, South Africa's National Botanical Gardens have,

Table 1. Comparison between butterflies recorded in South Africa's National Botanical Gardens and provincial/national butterfly statistics

	Provinces					National
	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu-Natal	Mpumalanga	Northern Cape	Western Cape
Number of butterfly taxa*	173	212	420	374	194	279
Exclusive endemic taxa*	6	1	19	12	29	103
Red List or threatened taxa*	7	6	10	11	2	20
Number of butterfly taxa recorded in NBGs	17	Pretoria: 54 Walter Sisulu: 85 Combined: 96	122	85	19	Harold Porter: 20 Karoo Desert: 10 Kirstenbosch: 36 Combined: 41
% butterfly taxa per province recorded in NBGs	10	Pretoria: 25 Walter Sisulu: 40 Combined: 45	29	23	10	Harold Porter: 7 Karoo Desert: 4 Kirstenbosch: 13 Combined: 15
						205
						26

* after Henning *et al.* (2009)

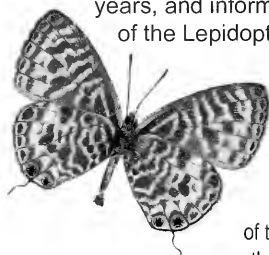
for many years, been describing the interactions and dependencies between plants, people and animals through interpretive signage displayed in the Gardens. This has been extended to general visitors through guided tours and to learners through formal educational programmes held in the Gardens. Several Gardens offer weekend talks and specialised natural history courses, and visitors are encouraged to make use of the opportunities that are provided to learn more about biological diversity present in and outside our NBGs. Together with biodiversity partners and volunteers from universities, museums, natural history societies and other research institutions, SANBI has been inventorying biodiversity in its Gardens for the past several years, and currently has faunal species lists for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, molluscs, spiders and scorpions. The KwaZulu-Natal NBG in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, is the National Botanical Garden with the most comprehensive lists of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, thanks largely to previous studies and inventories conducted in the Garden by staff and students of the University of KwaZulu-Natal as well as amateur naturalists. It is likely that the current diversity of 19 butterfly taxa so far known for the 6 229 ha Hantam National Botanical Garden in the Northern Cape will significantly improve as future monitoring and survey work is conducted in the Garden at different times through the year.

SANBI's ultimate aim is to conserve and celebrate biodiversity and educate members of the public about its value and importance, both inside and outside the boundaries of our precious National Botanical Gardens, or, as they have also been described, national biodiversity facilities. The underlying assumption is that people with more exposure to nature are more interested in conserving it. It has been shown that direct experience with the natural world, especially during childhood, appears to be the most important source of environmental sensitivity. As human populations shift to cities, people will experience nature primarily through contact with urban nature. If it is true that conservation will increasingly depend on the ability of people in cities to maintain a connection with nature, then South Africa's National Botanical Gardens as urban havens of biodiversity and places that allow people to connect with natural habitats and ecosystems, will become increasingly more valuable for future generations.

While the public eye is usually focused on details of plants, insects, especially butterflies, bees, dragonflies and damselflies, are inevitably also noticed. Botanical gardens as such have an important role to introduce plant and insect conservation to the public. Butterfly-watching in the Gardens is excellent at any time of the year, although a greater

diversity of butterflies is usually seen in the summer months between September and April.

This consolidated checklist of butterflies is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive list of butterflies known for each of the nine National Botanical Gardens managed by SANBI. It provides a synthesis of Garden-based lists, accumulated by the individual Gardens over several years, and information supplied by university students and members of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (LepSoc).



Pioneers of butterfly exploration in South Africa

Many individuals have contributed to our current understanding of butterflies in South Africa. A comprehensive list of these 'trail blazers' was published in Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa (Pringle et al. 1994). Much of the information in the current work has been extracted from this more comprehensive historical synthesis. The following selection provides a summary of probably the most significant contributions made by past pioneers towards South African lepidoptery up to the end of the 20th century.

Barber, Mary E. (née Bowker) (1818–1899) Sister of James Henry Bowker. Mary began collecting, studying and painting butterflies, beetles and plants at a young age and became an enthusiastic writer, artist and naturalist. Mrs Barber was the most distinguished woman naturalist in South Africa at the time and she is commemorated in a number of butterfly and plant descriptions. South Africa's smallest butterfly and the second smallest butterfly in the world (Dwarf Blue, *Oraidium barberae*), is named after her.

Bowker, James Henry (1822–1900) Farmer, soldier, public servant and naturalist who collected butterflies, particularly from areas of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, many of which are held in the Iziko South African Museum. James Bowker helped Roland Trimen with his three-volume treatise on South African butterflies published in the late 1880s. He was well known as a collector of butterflies and recorded many new butterfly and plant species.

Trimen, Roland (1840–1916) Born in England. Having served for several years as Acting Curator of the South African Museum in Cape Town from the mid-1860s to the mid-1870s, finally became Curator of the South African Museum in August 1876, a post he held until his retirement in 1895. Trimen was the leading authority on South African butterflies during his lifetime, publishing a Catalogue of S.A. butterflies, 1862–1866, and three volumes on South African butterflies between 1887 and 1889. Ill health forced him to return to England in 1895. He became president of the Entomological Society in London in 1897. Trimen received numerous awards and wrote many articles

on other groups of insects, birds and fish as well as mammals. He was also a fine natural history draughtsman.

Clark, Gowan Coningsby (1888–1964) Best known for his paintings of the life histories of South African butterflies, completing more than 250 plates in his lifetime. Clark also painted many lepidopterous parasites. He was a modest and gifted man and his masterly illustrations have adorned many books on butterflies. He was the author of 16 scientific papers and books on butterflies.

Platt, Ernest E. (1874–1966) Platt contributed greatly to the knowledge of the life histories of southern African butterflies and moths. He made many notes and took many photographs of the early stages of butterflies. His list of the Lepidoptera food plants published in Volume III of the *South African Journal of Natural History* in 1921 was the most comprehensive information on the subject for many years.

Van Son, Georges (1898–1967) Born in Russia. Entomologist at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, over a 42-year period from 1925 to 1967. Obtained his BSc, MSc and DSc degrees through the University of Pretoria. His main research was on butterflies. He wrote up the South African butterfly species in beautifully illustrated volumes, three of which appeared during his lifetime (1949, 1955 and 1963) and the fourth was ready for the press at the time of his death. The fourth part (1979) was revised and edited by Lajos Vári, another entomologist in the Transvaal Museum who specialised in the taxonomy of moths and leaf-mining insects. Georges van Son travelled extensively in southern Africa and adjoining territories and also collected plants, particularly succulents. Van Son was one of the kindest and most eminent lepidopterists of his day. His favourite collecting site in South Africa was Woodbush in the current Limpopo Province.

Pennington, Kenneth (Ken) Misson (1897–1974) Ken Pennington served in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I and was a school master at Michaelhouse for 35 years before his retirement in 1958. His collection, which he began in 1912 under guidance of his father, was the most complete collection of southern African butterflies at the time. It is now in the Transvaal Museum. Pennington's *Butterflies of southern Africa* (Dickson & Kroon 1978; Pringle et al. 1994) was the definitive book on South African butterflies in the last quarter of the 20th century. Its status in South African natural history literature is compared with Roberts *Birds of southern Africa* and *The Mammals of the southern African subregion* by Smithers. Ken Pennington unfortunately passed away before his major work was published and it was edited by Charles Dickson and Douglas Kroon and published in 1978. This publication was revised and edited by Ernest Pringle, Graham Henning and Jonathan Ball in 1994, but is currently out of print. At least 30 new species and three subspecies were described by him, and 10 species and three subspecies bear his name. He published 16 papers on butterflies. Pennington was a founding member of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa and was elected president of the society in 1965.

Swanepoel, David Abraham (1912–1990) Swanepoel began collecting in 1925. *Pennington's Butterflies of southern Africa* (Pringle et al. 1994) describes Swanepoel as follows: 'Probably no other person has spent as much time and effort in the pursuit of butterflies in the field as this great collector, who had the tremendous gift of being able to excite others about butterflies. His immaculate collection is in the Transvaal Museum. He discovered many new species and subspecies and published many descriptions of new taxa.' His list of publications includes the book *Butterflies of South Africa: where, when and how they fly*, published in 1953. At the time, it was one of the most valuable reference guides to South African butterflies, citing his many collection localities across the length and breadth of South Africa. He collaborated closely with both Georges van Son and Ken Pennington. Popular names for many of South Africa's butterflies were proposed by him.

Dickson, Charles Gordon Campbell (1907–1991) Born and died in Cape Town. Collaborated with Gowan Clark. Dickson described 60 species and 34 subspecies of butterflies in his lifetime. Authored or co-authored 90 publications on Lepidoptera, including five books. Dickson was affectionately known by his 'butterfly' friends as their 'Great Master' and was regarded as the foremost authority on the butterflies of the Cape. He was also a meticulous entomological artist. Charles Dickson was awarded an MSc honoris causa by the University of Cape Town in 1974.

Pinhey, Elliot Charles Gordon (1910–1999) Having previously worked as a science teacher in England, Germany and the current Zimbabwe as well as an economic entomologist in the then Rhodesian Department of Agriculture, Elliot Pinhey moved to South Africa in 1948, where he took up a position at the Transvaal Museum. In the following year he accepted the post of Keeper of Entomology in the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi (now the National Museum of Kenya), where he worked for the next five years. In 1955 he returned to Zimbabwe as Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology based at the Natural History Museum in Bulawayo. Pinhey wrote many papers and books on southern African moths, butterflies and dragonflies. He was awarded a DSc by London University in 1962 for published entomological works. His many expeditions to remote parts of Africa were rewarded with discoveries of many species new to science.

How to use the Checklist

For ease of cross-reference, this list follows the order of families (e.g. Nymphalidae) and groups (e.g. Browns, Bitter Acraeas) that appear in Woodhall's (2005) comprehensive publication *Field guide to butterflies of South Africa*. Within each group, butterflies are listed in alphabetical order according to their common names. Where applicable, alternative English as well as Afrikaans common names have been listed. Butterflies recorded in each National Botanical Garden are indicated in dedicated fields at the bottom of the pages by open circles which can be filled in by visitors when butterflies are seen in a particular Garden.

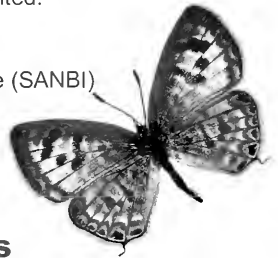
Conservation status

No threatened butterfly taxa have so far been recorded in South Africa's National Botanical Gardens, as described in the latest Red Data Book for butterflies by Henning *et al.* (2009). All butterflies observed in our NBGs thus far have been classified in the same category of Least Concern (LC), which, according to the IUCN categories, are widespread and abundant taxa and do not qualify for the threatened categories of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened.

New records

This Checklist is in its first edition and will be updated from time to time. Should you observe a butterfly in one of South Africa's National Botanical Gardens that is not included in this Checklist, please send us a note of this record (with a photograph, details of the observer's name, contact details, date, Garden name and habitat description) to the following address so that it can be confirmed and documented:

Chief Director
Conservation Gardens & Tourism Division
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
Private Bag X101
PRETORIA 0001
South Africa
E-mail: info@sanbi.org.za



National Botanical Gardens

FS – Free State National Botanical Garden, Bloemfontein, Free State

H – Hantam National Botanical Garden, Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape

HP – Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, Betty's Bay, Western Cape

KD – Karoo Desert National Botanical Garden, Worcester, Western Cape

K – Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Cape Town, Western Cape

KZN – KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal

L – Lowveld National Botanical Garden, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga

P – Pretoria National Botanical Garden, Pretoria, Gauteng

WS – Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort/Mogale City, Gauteng

Most widespread butterflies recorded in South Africa's National Botanical Gardens (recorded in five or more Gardens)

African Clouded Yellow

African Grass Blue

African Migrant

African Monarch

Brown-veined White

Bush Bronze

Citrus Swallowtail

Common Diadem

Common Dotted Border

Common Hottentot

Common Zebra Blue

Garden Acraea

Geranium Bronze

Meadow White

Painted Lady

Pea Blue

Yellow Pansy



♂ = Male

♀ = Female

Alphabetical quick index to common names

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Acara Acraea	36						O	O		
African Clouded Yellow	173	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O
African Common White	164						O	O	O	O
African Grass Blue	145			O		O	O	O	O	O
African Leaf Commodore	76						O	O		
African Leopard	51						O	O	O	O
African Migrant	174	O				O	O	O	O	O
African Monarch	15	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O
African Ringlet	33	O						O		
African Snout	86						O			
African Veined White	165						O			
African Wood White	170							O		
Angled Grass Yellow	175						O	O		
Angola White-lady Swordtail	185							O		
Aranda Copper	109									O
Babault's Blue	129							O		
Battling Glider	62						O			
Black Heart	122									O
Black Pie	128						O	O		O
Black-banded Swift	215						O			O
Black-bordered Babul Blue	146							O	O	O
Black-striped Hairtail	119								O	O
Black-tipped Acraea	37							O		
Blood-red Acraea	38						O			
Blue Pansy	79						O	O	O	O
Blue-spotted Charaxes	53						O			
Boisduval's Tree Nymph	67						O			
Boland Brown	27		O			O				
Bowker's Sapphire	91				O					
Brauns's Skolly	90				O					
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow	176						O		O	O
Brown Commodore	80						O			

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Brown Playboy	102						O	O		O
Brown-veined White	166	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O
Bush Bronze	123			O		O	O	O	O	
Bush Night-fighter	212						O			
Bushveld Charaxes	54							O		
Bushveld Purple Tip	156						O	O		
Bushveld Ringlet	34							O		
Cabbage White	167			O		O				
Cape Autumn Widow	25			O		O				
Cape Black-eye	96	O	O		O	O				
Cape Brown	28			O						
Chief	16						O	O		
Christmas Forester	193						O			
Citrus Swallowtail	178			O		O	O	O	O	O
Clear-spotted Acraea	39								O	
Clouded Forester	194						O	O		
Clover Blue	147							O		
Common Black-eye	97							O		
Common Bush Brown	20						O	O		
Common Diadem	72					O	O	O	O	O
Common Dotted Border	171			O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Common Fig-tree Blue	103						O	O	O	O
Common Hairtail	120					O	O		O	O
Common Hottentot	218					O	O	O	O	O
Common Joker	68						O			
Common Meadow Blue	143							O		O
Common Orange Tip	157	O								
Common Sailer	65						O	O		
Common Sandman	198						O			O
Common Scarlet	107						O	O		O
Common Wanderer	35						O			
Common Zebra Blue	130				O	O	O	O	O	O
Constantine's Swallowtail	179						O			
Cupreous Blue	141		O		O	O				O
Damara Copper	110		O							

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Dancing Acraea	40						O	O	O	O
Dark Elfin	196							O		
Dark Hottentot	219								O	O
Depicta Copper	111				O					
Dickson's Geranium Bronze	124		O							
Dismal Sylph	203									O
Dotted Blue	131						O	O	O	O
Dull Copper	112		O							
D'Urban's Woolly Legs	89									O
Dusky Acraea	41						O	O		
Dusky Copper	113									O
Dusky Line Blue	135								O	
Dwarf Sandman	199					O				
Eastern Sorrel Copper	118	O								
Elfin Skipper	197						O	O		
Ella's Bar	104									O
Emperor Swallowtail	180						O			
Eyed Bush Brown	21						O	O		
Eyed Pansy	81						O	O		O
False Wanderer	64						O			
Forest Beauty	24						O			
Forest Leopard	52							O		
Forest Sandman	200						O			
Forest Swallowtail	181						O			
Forest White	168									O
Foxy Charaxes	55						O		O	O
Fulvous Ranger	207						O			O
Fynbos or Vivid Blue	132			O		O				
Garden Acraea	42			O		O	O		O	O
Garden Commodore	77						O	O	O	O
Gaudy Commodore	78						O	O	O	O
Geranium Bronze	125		O	O		O	O		O	O
Golden Piper	70						O	O		
Gold-spotted Sylph	204			O		O	O			
Grass Jewel	153								O	O

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Grassveld Sylph	205					O				
Green-banded Swallowtail	182						O	O	O	O
Green-veined Charaxes	56						O	O		O
Guineafowl	63							O		O
Henning's Black-eye	98	O							O	O
Henning's Copper	114									O
Hintza Blue	127	O					O	O		O
Jitterbug Daisy Copper	115					O				
Karkloof Charaxes	57						O			
Large Striped Swordtail	186							O		
Layman	17						O	O		
Lemon Traveller	158								O	O
Long-horned Swift	216							O	O	
Long-tailed Admiral	85						O			
Lowveld Yellow	177						O	O		
Lysander Opal	116		O							
Macken's Dart	210						O	O		
Mamba Swordtail	187						O			
Marsh Acraea	43	O					O			O
McGregor's Blue	136		O							
Meadow White	169	O	O	O	O	O	O		O	O
Mocker Bronze	126								O	O
Mocker Swallowtail	183						O	O		
Mother-of-Pearl	74						O	O		
Mountain Sandman	201					O	O			O
Mozambique Bar	105									O
Namaqua Arrowhead	108		O							
Natal Acraea	44						O	O	O	O
Natal Babul Blue	148						O	O		
Natal Bar	106						O			O
Netted Sylph	206								O	
Novice	18						O	O		
Orange Acraea	45						O			
Orange-banded Protea	100					O	O			
Painted Lady	84	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Pale Hairtail	121								O	
Palm-tree Night-fighter	211					O				
Patricia Blue	137						O			O
Pea Blue	133	O	O	O		O	O		O	O
Pearl Charaxes	58						O	O		
Peppered Hopper	213									O
Pied Piper	71						O			
Pirate	75						O			O
Polka Dot	50						O			
Purple-brown Hairstreak	95						O	O	O	O
Rainforest Brown	29			O		O	O			
Rayed Blue	149						O			O
Red Tip	159						O			
Red-line Sapphire	92							O		
Robust Hopper	214								O	
Russet Protea	101									O
Sable Smoky Blue	140									O
Satyr Charaxes	59						O			
Scarce Ranger	208									O
Scarlet Tip	160						O	O	O	
Short-toothed Blue	134							O		
Silver-barred Charaxes	60						O			
Silver-spotted Grey	117							O		
Small Marbled Elf	195							O		O
Small Orange Tip	161						O			
Small Striped Swordtail	188						O			
Smoky Orange Tip	162		O					O		O
Soldier Pansy	82						O	O		
Spotted Buff	88						O	O		
Spotted Joker	69						O		O	
Spotted Sailer	66						O		O	O
Spotted-eye Brown	30									O
Spring Widow	26		O			O				
Squinting Bush Brown	22							O		
Star Sandman	202						O			O

Common Name	Page	FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
Straight-line Sapphire	93							O		
Striped Policeman	191						O		O	
Sulphur Orange Tip	163						O			
Table Mountain Beauty	23			O		O				
Tailed Black-eye	99							O		
Tailed Meadow Blue	144						O			
Tinkinkie Blue	150	O	O		O					
Tiny Grass Blue	154						O	O	O	O
Topaz Babul Blue	151							O	O	O
Trimen's Sapphire	94									O
Twilight Brown	19						O	O		
Twin Dotted Border	172									O
Twin-spot Blue	138									O
Two-pip Policeman	192						O			O
Variable Diadem	73						O			
Veined Swordtail	189						O			
Velvet-spotted Babul Blue	152									O
Wallengren's Ranger	209						O			
Wandering Donkey Acraea	46						O		O	O
Western Hillside Brown	31			O		O				
White Lady	190						O			
White-banded Swallowtail	184						O	O		
White-banded Swift	217						O			
White-barred Acraea	47						O	O	O	
White-barred Charaxes	61					O	O	O	O	O
White-tipped Blue	142							O		
Wichgraf's Hillside Brown	32									O
Window Acraea	48						O	O		
Yellow Pansy	83	O				O	O	O	O	O
Yellow Zulu	87						O			
Yellow-banded Acraea	49						O			
Zebra White	155	O					O		O	O
Zulu Blue	139									O
TOTAL	—	17	19	20	10	36	122	85	54	85

Checklist of butterflies

Family Nymphalidae

Monarchs, Evening Browns, Bush Browns, Widows, Shadeflies, Webbed Ringlets, Browns, Ringlets, Wanderers, Acraeas, Leopards, Emperors, Queens, Gliders, Nymphs, Foresters, Sailers, Tree Nymphs, Jokers, Pipers, Diadems, Mothers-of-Pearl, Pirate, Commodores, Pansies, Painted Lady, Admirals, Snouts, Mountain Pride, Forest/Bush Beauty

Monarch

Danaus chrysippus orientis

African Monarch

Alternate common name: Plain Tiger

Afrikaans common name: Melkbosskoenlapper

Wingspan: ♂ 50–70 mm ♀ 50–75 mm

Notes: Common throughout South Africa. Distasteful to predators in general—and serves as the model for a number of mimics, e.g. female Common Diadem. Food plants include species of *Gomphocarpus*, *Ceropegia*, *Stapelia* and *Huernia*.

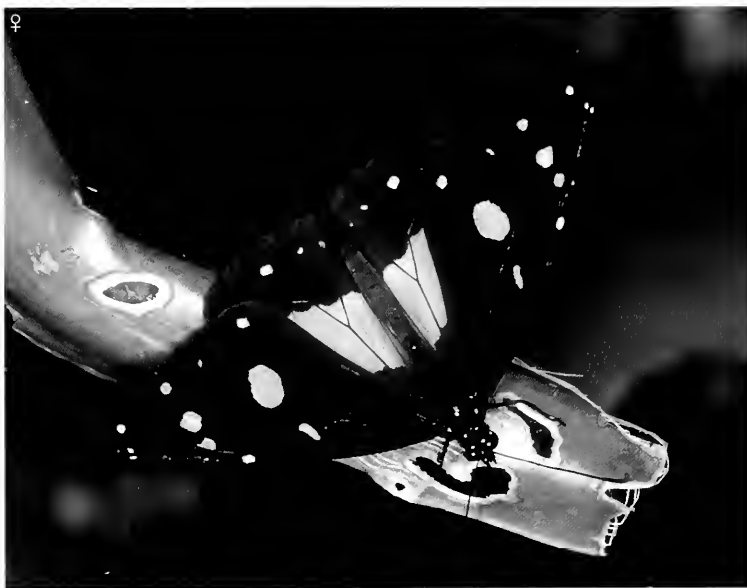
Flight period: All year, with peak in late summer/autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Nymphalidae

Chief, Layman, Novice*Amauris echeria echeria***Chief****Alternate common name:** Chief Friar**Afrikaans common names:** Toordokter, Hoofmonnik**Wingspan:** ♂ 55–65 mm ♀ 63–70 mm**Notes:** Differs from Layman in that forewing spots are always cream-coloured to ochre. More frequent in forest than the Layman. Mimics include the female Mocker Swallowtail and some forms of the False Chief.**Flight period:** Year-round (peak summer/autumn).

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Amauris albimaculata albimaculata

Layman

Alternate common name: Layman Friar

Afrikaans common name: Ouheks

Wingspan: ♂ 50–60 mm ♀ 62–68 mm

Notes: Slow, floating flight. Upperside black with white forewing spots. More common and widespread than the Friar or Novice. The male is South Africa's smallest danaid (members of the subfamily Danainae). Mimics include the female Mocker Swallowtail, both sexes of the Variable Diadem and the False Chief.

Flight period: All year, with peak in summer/autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Amauris ochlea ochlea***Novice****Alternate common name:** Novice Friar**Afrikaans common name:** Outannie**Wingspan:** ♂ 55–60 mm ♀ 60–65 mm**Notes:** Smaller than similar Friar and less active, flying higher. The scarce Deceptive Diadem uses this species as a model for the sake of protection.**Flight period:** Year-round (peak summer/autumn).

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Evening Brown

Melanitis leda helena

Twilight Brown

Alternate common names: Evening Brown, Common Evening Brown

Afrikaans common name: Skemer-bruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 58–65 mm ♀ 63–72 mm

Notes: Skulking habit, reluctant to fly. Undersides variably coloured and marked. During the hours of sunlight it sits well concealed among dead leaves in heavy shade. Active mainly at dusk or on dull, cloudy days. Food plants include various grass species, including sugar cane.

Flight period: Two main overlapping broods: winter (Mar–Aug), spring and summer (Sept–Mar).



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Bush Browns*Bicyclus safitza safitza***Common Bush Brown**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Swart-bosbruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 43–48 mm

Notes: Distinctive hopping and bobbing flight along pathways; never flies far when flushed. Found in lowland and riverine forest and bush in the eastern zone of South Africa. Food plants include the Shade Ehrharta *Ehrharta erecta*.

Flight period: Year-round. DSF Jan–May (peak Apr), WSF Oct–Dec (peak Nov).



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Heteropsis perspicua perspicua

Eyed Bush Brown

Alternate common name: Marsh Patroller

Afrikaans common name: Moeraswagter

Wingspan: ♂ 38–43 mm ♀ 42–48 mm

Notes: Common in grassland, often near low-lying or riverine forest. Has a 'hopping' flight.

Flight period: Year-round. WSF in spring and summer, DSF in autumn and winter.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Bicyclus anynana anynana***Squinting Bush Brown**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Skeeloog-bosbruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 39–45 mm

Notes: Often with Common Bush Brown in warmer, lowland areas; similar habits but warier, more difficult to approach. Well camouflaged on dead leaves. DSF is unique with its asymmetric ocellus on the underside of the forewing. The larvae feed on grass.

Flight period: Two extended broods: DSF in autumn and winter, WSF in spring and summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Nymphalidae

Mountain Pride*Aeropetes tulbaghia***Table Mountain Beauty**

Alternate common name: Mountain Pride

Afrikaans common name: Bergnooientjie

Wingspan: ♂ 70–78 mm ♀ 75–90 mm

Notes: Only known pollinator of the Red Disa *Disa uniflora*. Fond of red or orange flowers on mountains, especially those of *Watsonia*, *Crassula*, *Nerine*, *Kniphofia* and *Brunsvigia*. In the heat of the day it is often disturbed from the shady side of rocks or upright banks. Food plants are grasses, including *Ehrharta erecta* and the Common Thatching Grass *Hyparrhenia hirta*.

Flight period: Single-brooded, Nov–Apr (peak Dec–Mar).

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O				

Family Nymphalidae

Bush Beauty*Paralethe dendrophilus***Forest Beauty**

Alternate common name: Bush Beauty

Afrikaans common name: Bosprag

Wingspan: ♂ 45–60 mm ♀ 48–70 mm

Notes: Afromontane and coastal forest fringes. Flight slow and flapping. Variable species. Often sits on tree boles to hide or feed at sap. Food plants include the grasses *Ehrharta erecta*, the Broad-leaved Panicum *Panicum deustum* and other soft grasses.

Flight period: Single-brooded, late Dec–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Widows

Dira clytus

Cape Autumn Widow

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kaapse-herfsweduwee

Wingspan: 45–55 mm

Notes: Common in autumn, especially in thick patches of kikuyu. Floating, sailing flight, just above the grass. The female differs from the male in her stouter abdomen and rounder wings. Larval stage feeds on various grasses.

Flight period: Single-brooded, late Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O				

Family Nymphalidae

*Tarocera cassus***Spring Widow**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kaapse-lenteweduwee

Wingspan: ♂ 42–52 mm ♀ 50–57 mm

Notes: Frequently visits flowers such as those of *Selago* species. in its wandering flight. One of the first butterflies from the southern African region to be named by Linnaeus. It is common on the slopes and summits of hills and mountains.

Flight period: Single-brooded, Sept–Dec (peak Oct/Nov).



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O			O				

Family Nymphalidae

Browns

Melampias huebneri

Boland Brown

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Boland-bruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–38 mm ♀ 33–35 mm

Notes: One of the commonest spring butterflies in the Cape. Flight is low and rather prolonged.

Flight period: Single-brooded, from Jun or Aug to Oct/Nov.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O			O				

Family Nymphalidae

*Cassionympha detecta***Cape Brown**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kaapse-bosbruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 33–37 mm ♀ 34–38 mm

Notes: Smaller and darker than the Rainforest Brown, flight faster.

Flight period: Sept–Apr (peaks Oct and Mar).



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O						

Family Nymphalidae

Cassionympha cassius

Rainforest Brown

Alternate common name: Forest Brown

Afrikaans common name: Reënwood-bosbruintjie

Wingspan: ♂ 34–38 mm ♀ 36–42 mm

Notes: Common in cool, moist forests, coastal or riverine bush and kloofs. The number of ocelli on both wings is very variable.

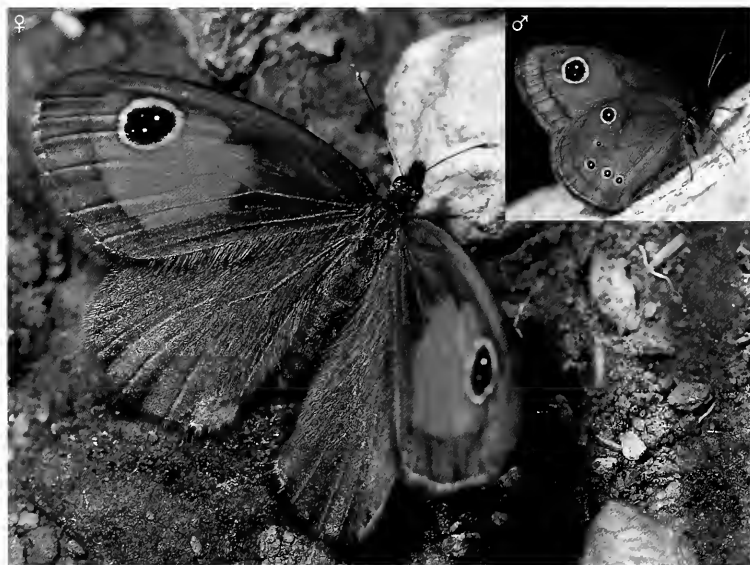
Flight period: Year-round, mostly Sept–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O	O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Paternympha narycia***Spotted-eye Brown****Alternate common name:** Small Hillside Brown**Afrikaans common name:** Koloog-bruintjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–44 mm ♀ 42–47 mm**Notes:** A widespread species with its forewing patch orange instead of the usual orange-red of all its congeners. Flight slow and low, over hillsides, rough grassland or along rocky ridges; settles often.**Flight period:** Double-brooded, Oct–Dec and Jan–Apr.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Nymphalidae

Stygionympha vigilans

Western Hillside Brown

Alternate common name: Hillside Brown

Afrikaans common name: Westelike-rantbruintjie

Wingspan: 45–48 mm

Notes: Settles on the ground, jerkily opening and closing its wings. Found on rocky ledges and ridges. Generally only one minute ocellate spot on the underside of the hindwing.

Flight period: Probably multibrooded, Aug–Apr, peak Oct/Nov and Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O				

Family Nymphalidae

*Stygionympha wichgrafi***Wichgraf's Hillside Brown**

Alternate common name: Wichgraf's Brown

Afrikaans common name: Wichgraf-se-rantbruintjie

Wingspan: 40–50 mm

Notes: Wings more angular than the larger Western or Eastern Hillside Browns. Slow, jinking flight. Larval food includes various grasses.**Flight period:** Multibrooded, Aug–Mar.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Nymphalidae

Ringlets

Ypthima asterope

African Ringlet

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Afrikaanse-ringetjie

Wingspan: ♂ 30–34 mm ♀ 32–38 mm

Notes: Two subspecies. Most widespread *Ypthima*, found all over drier areas of Africa and into Asia.

Flight period: Year-round, peak early summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O						O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Ypthima impura***Bushveld Ringlet**

Alternate common name: Impure Ringlet

Afrikaans common name: Vuil-ringetjie

Wingspan: ♂ 32–36 mm ♀ 34–38 mm

Notes: Sexes similar, female with abdomen stouter, habits more sedentary. There are usually three clear ocelli on the hindwing underside.

Flight period: Year-round, peak in early summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Nymphalidae

Wanderer

Acraea aganice

Common Wanderer

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Swartbont-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 60–65 mm ♀ 70–75 mm

Notes: Male strongly territorial, chasing off settling intruders. Fond of flowers. The Common Wanderer has several mimics, e.g. False Wanderer.

Flight period: Year-round, more common Oct/Nov–Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Bitter Acraeas*Acraea acara***Acara Acraea**

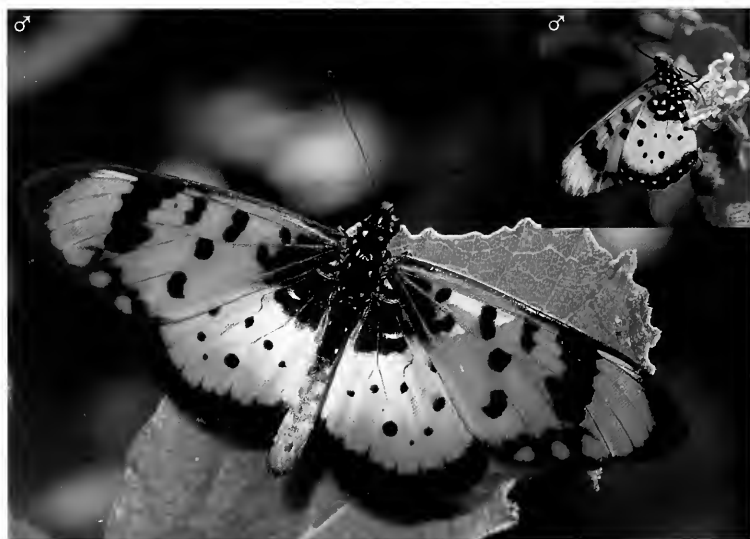
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Acara-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 55–66 mm ♀ 60–72 mm

Notes: May be very common in lowland forest and wooded savanna. It has a slow and weak or lazy flight. Both sexes fly from 0.9–1.5 m above the ground. Females are usually darker than the males.

Flight period: Multibrooded year-round in warmer areas, peak Nov–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Acraea caldarena

Black-tipped Acraea

Alternate common name: Black-tip Acraea

Afrikaans common name: Swartpunt-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Common bushveld species. Prominent black forewing tips. Flight slow and not far above the ground. Attracted to flowers.

Flight period: Year-round, most active from Aug–Apr, with strong peak in late summer/autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Acraea petraea***Blood-red Acraea**

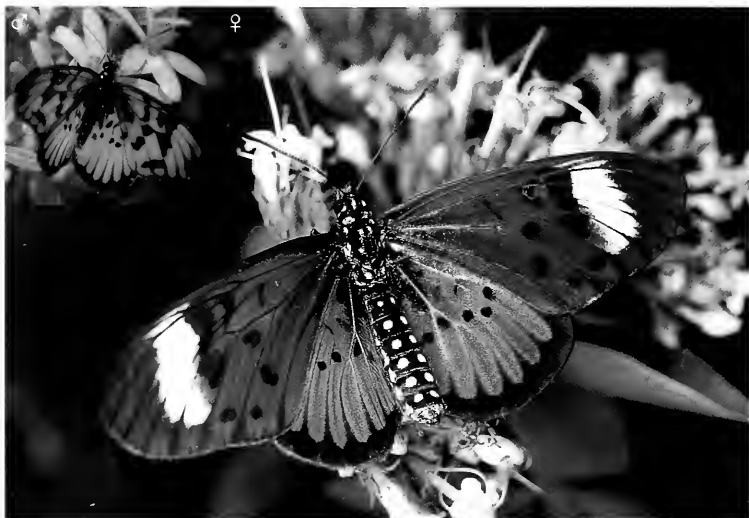
Alternate common names: Blotched Acraea, Crimson Acraea

Afrikaans common name: Bloed-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 45–48 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Strikingly red *Acraea*. Flight slow and fluttering. Popular coastal garden subject. Larval food plant includes the African Dog-rose *Xylotheca kraussiana*.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Nov–Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Acraea aglaonice

Clear-spotted Acraea

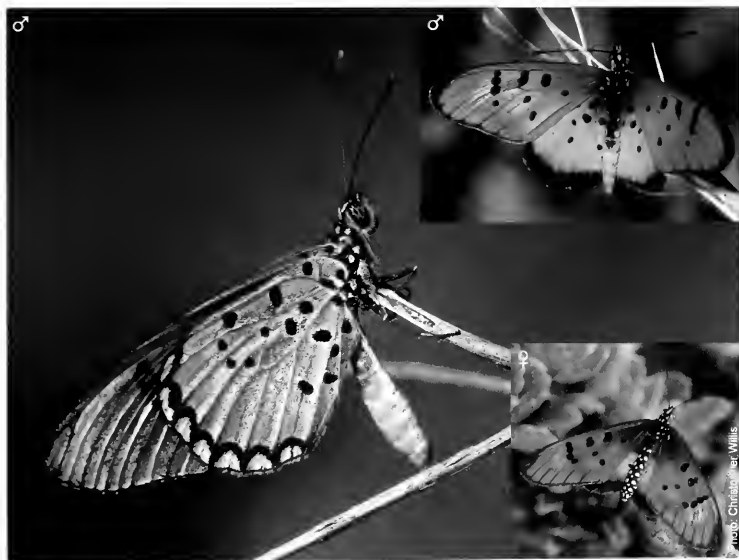
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Venster-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 43–49 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Bushveld species. Distinctive hyaline area in the forewing. Fond of *Vernonia* flowers. During midday it hovers about low shrubs and grass on the tops of hills.

Flight period: Multibrooded year-round, peaks early summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	

Family Nymphalidae

*Telchinia serena***Dancing Acraea**

Alternate common name: Small Orange Acraea

Afrikaans common name: Kleinoranje-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 36–44 mm

Notes: Roosts communally on long grass stems. Slow, low, fluttering flight.

Flight period: Year-round, more common in the warmer months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Telchinia esebria

Dusky Acraea

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Boerbok-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 45–55 mm ♀ 53–60 mm

Notes: Distinctive but very variable. Flight slow, easy to approach. Common along forest paths and edges of clearings.

Flight period: Year-round, more common in the warmer months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Acraea horta***Garden Acraea**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Tuin-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 45–50 mm ♀ 49–53 mm

Notes: Popular garden species; visits flowers often. Usually in large, concentrated colonies. Flight usually slow and sailing, unless disturbed. Larval food plants include the Wild Peach *Kiggelaria africana* and various species of *Passiflora*.

Flight period: Year-round, more common Oct–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O	O		O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Telchinia rahira

Marsh Acraea

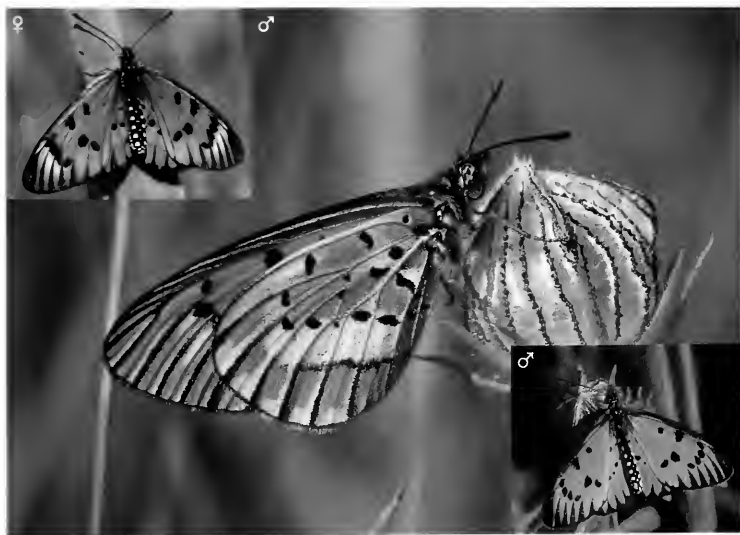
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Moeras-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 40–50 mm

Notes: Unmistakable pale buff butterfly. Locally common in marshes and vleis, and damp river margins. Flight slow and low; settles often on plants.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, most active Sept–Apr. In cooler areas, found only in the hot summer months.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O					O			O

Family Nymphalidae

*Acraea natalica***Natal Acraea**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Natalse-rooitjie

Wingspan: 55–65 mm

Notes: Common and widespread in open, lowland forest and savanna.

Flight period: Year-round, strong peak in late summer.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Telchinia anacreon

Orange Acraea

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Oranje-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Basks in the sun and feeds on flowers. Flight is slow, low and fluttering, unless disturbed. Shows considerable variation.

Flight period: Several broods Oct–May, peak Feb



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Acraea neobule***Wandering Donkey Acraea****Alternate common name:** Neobule Acraea**Afrikaans common name:** Dwaalesel-rooitjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 48–55 mm ♀ 50–56 mm**Notes:** Closely resembles Garden Acraea, but always paler red, more extensive hyaline wing areas, and smaller, more regular spotting.**Flight period:** Year-round, more common Sept–Apr.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O		O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Telchinia encedon

White-barred Acraea

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witstreep-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Wooded savanna and open coastal forests. Flies slowly and settles on low vegetation. Often flies around hilltops at midday.

Flight period: Year-round, more common in the warmer months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	

Family Nymphalidae

*Acraea oncaea***Window Acraea****Alternate common name:** Rooibok Acraea**Afrikaans common name:** Rooibokkie-rooitjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–48 mm ♀ 43–55 mm**Notes:** Common in wooded savanna and lowland forest.**Flight period:** Multibrooded year-round, peak Sept–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Telchinia cabira

Yellow-banded Acraea

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Geelstreep-rooitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 38–44 mm ♀ 40–45 mm

Notes: Unmistakable. Common in thick bush and forest. Fluttering flight low and slow, often visiting flowers.

Flight period: Year-round, more common in the warmer months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Polka Dot*Pardopsis punctatissima***Polka Dot**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Polkastippel

Wingspan: ♂ 30–34 mm ♀ 33–36 mm

Notes: Unique, unmistakable. Much spotted, weak flier. Favours moist grassy areas; often found at forest edges.**Flight period:** Year-round, peak Oct–Mar.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Leopards

Phalanta phalantha aethiopica

African Leopard

Alternate common names: Common Leopard, Poplar Leopard

Afrikaans common name: Populierluiperd

Wingspan: ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 43–48 mm

Notes: Widespread woodland species, but penetrates grassland areas where its White Poplar *Populus alba* food plant is found. A restless insect, constantly moving its wings when perched on a flower or leaf.

Flight period: In cooler areas, Oct–Apr; in warmer areas, year-round, peak late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

*Phalanta eurytis eurytis***Forest Leopard**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Woudluiperd

Wingspan: ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 43–48 mm

Notes: Extremely similar to the African Leopard. Restricted to heavy woodland; scarcer than the African Leopard.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Jan–Jun.



Photo: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Nymphalidae

Emperors*Charaxes cithaeron cithaeron***Blue-spotted Charaxes**

Alternate common name: Blue-spotted Emperor

Afrikaans common name: Bosprins-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 70–80 mm ♀ 85–95 mm

Notes: Commonly seen in coastal forests.

Flight period: Year-round, but more common from Mar–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes achaemenes achaemenes***Bushveld Charaxes****Alternate common name:** Bushveld Emperor**Afrikaans common name:** Bosveld-dubbelstert**Wingspan:** ♂ 55–60 mm ♀ 60–70 mm

Notes: Common and widespread in bushveld and wooded savanna. Males frequent koppies and ridges at midday. Female is a good mimic of the more powerful Foxy Charaxes as regards the upperside. Food plants include the Round-leaved Bloodwood *Pterocarpus rotundifolius*, Kiaat *Pterocarpus angolensis*, Nyala-tree *Xanthocercis zambesiaca* and the Camel-foot *Piliostigma thonningii*.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Feb–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes jasio saturnus***Foxy Charaxes**

Alternate common names: Foxy Emperor, Koppie Charaxes, Koppie Emperor

Afrikaans common name: Koppie-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 65–75 mm ♀ 75–90 mm

Notes: Common, widespread in savanna areas. Males are regular visitors to the tops of ridges and koppies at midday and make vigorous swoops on intruders into their 'playground', each time returning to their *Aloe* stalk or some suitable branch.

Flight period: Year-round. More common late summer to autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O		O	O

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes candiope***Green-veined Charaxes**

Alternate common name: Green-veined Emperor

Afrikaans common name: Skelm-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 65–75 mm ♀ 78–95 mm

Notes: Forewing green veins on underside very conspicuous. Food plants include the Forest Croton *Croton sylvaticus* and Lavender Croton *Croton gratissimus*. The female differs from the male mainly in her larger size and rounder abdomen, and is scarcer.

Flight period: Year-round, a weak peak Sept–Nov, stronger peak Jan–Jun.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		O

Family Nymphalidae

Charaxes karkloof

Karkloof Charaxes

Alternate common name: Karkloof Emperor

Afrikaans common name: Karkloof-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 45–55 mm ♀ 50–60 mm

Notes: First recorded in the main forests of the Karkloof in 1943 by the late Harold Millar. Afromontane forest edges and rocky ledges. Food plant is the Forest Plane *Ochna arborea*.

Flight period: Oct–Jun; weak peak Nov, strong peak Mar–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes varanes varanes***Pearl Charaxes****Alternate common name:** Pearl Emperor**Afrikaans common name:** Pêrel-dubbelstert**Wingspan:** ♂ 65–70 mm ♀ 70–90 mm**Notes:** Orange and pearly white wings conspicuous. Underside variable, cryptic, affording excellent camouflage. Flight slower than most other *Charaxes*. Food plants include the African False Currant *Allophylus africanus*.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, a weak peak Sept–Nov, stronger peak Jan–Jun.

Photo: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Charaxes ethalion ethalion

Satyr Charaxes

Alternate common names: Satyr Emperor, Coast Charaxes

Afrikaans common name: Satier-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 45–55 mm ♀ 50–63 mm

Notes: Male difficult to distinguish from other black *Charaxes*. Female with distinctive white median marks mirroring those on the upperside.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Oct and Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes druceanus***Silver-barred Charaxes****Alternate common name:** Silver-barred Emperor**Afrikaans common name:** Silwerstreep-dubbelstert**Wingspan:** ♂ 55–70 mm ♀ 65–85 mm**Notes:** Superficially similar to Foxy Charaxes, but upperside much darker and unmistakable silvery underside. Food plants include the Waterberry *Syzygium cordatum* and Bushveld Waterberry *Syzygium guineense*.**Flight period:** Sept–May, weak peak Oct, stronger peak Mar–Apr.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Charaxes brutus natalensis***White-barred Charaxes**

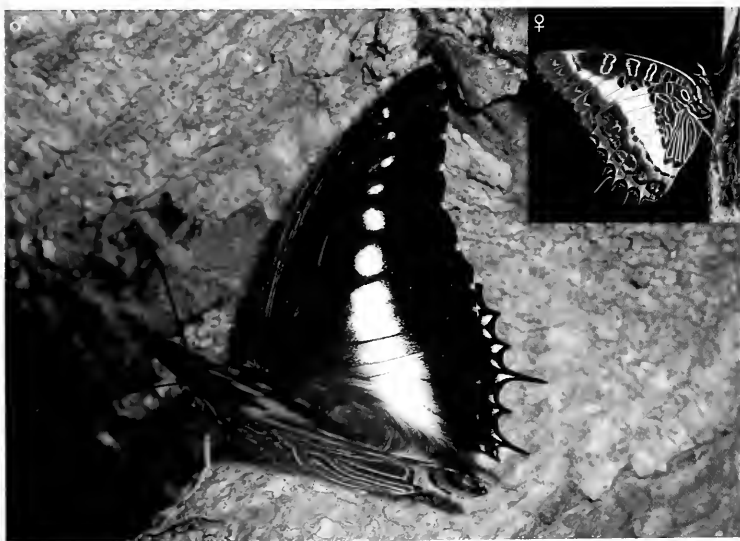
Alternate common name: White-barred Emperor

Afrikaans common name: Witstreep-dubbelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 60–75 mm ♀ 75–90 mm

Notes: Common woodland butterfly in most coastal and inland forests. Upperside unmistakable black and white. Underside similar to Foxy Charaxes. Pugnacious and aggressive, chasing flying intruders entering its domain. Visits red flowers such as those of *Tecomaria* and *Spathodea* species. Often seen at the fermenting sap of 'sucking-holes' in tree trunks.

Flight period: Year-round, more common late summer to autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O	O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Glider*Cymothoe alcimeda trimeni***Battling Glider**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Alsie-witkoppie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 45–55 mm

Notes: Five subspecies. Found in coastal and afromontane forest. Both sexes are fond of sucking at damp mud. Larval food plant is the Wild Peach *Kiggelaria africana*.

Flight period: Year-round, mainly summer from Oct; peak Nov and Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Guineafowl

Hamanumida daedalus

Guineafowl

Alternate common names: Guinea-fowl Butterfly, Road Inspector

Afrikaans common name: Tarentaaltjie

Wingspan: ♂ 55–65 mm ♀ 60–78 mm

Notes: Unmistakable. Flight low and floating, frequently settling with its wings open. Common and widespread in savanna, arid savanna and lowland forest. Food plants include the Velvet Bushwillow *Combretum molle* and Silver Cluster-leaf *Terminalia sericea*.

Flight period: Continuously brooded; peaks in midwinter and midsummer.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		O

Family Nymphalidae

False Acraea*Pseudacraea eurytus imitator***False Wanderer****Alternate common name:** Wanderer False Acraea**Afrikaans common name:** Skaduwee-valsrootijtjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 60–68 mm ♀ 65–75 mm**Notes:** Similar to the Common Wanderer, but the antennae are longer, and it has black spots on both surfaces of the forewing, lacking on the Common Wanderer forewing underside.**Flight period:** Year-round, mainly Dec–May, strong peak late summer.

National Botanical Garden									
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS	
					O				

Family Nymphalidae

Sailers*Neptis laeta***Common Sailer****Alternate common name:** Common Barred Sailer**Afrikaans common name:** Reënbos-swerwer**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–48 mm ♀ 45–52 mm**Notes:** Ubiquitous in warmer forests and bushveld, especially along rivers and streams. Food plants include the Climbing Flat-bean *Dalbergia obovata* and Thorny-rope *Dalbergia armata*.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, peak Dec–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Neptis saclava marpessa***Spotted Sailer****Alternate common name:** Small Spotted Sailer**Afrikaans common name:** Spikkel-swerwer**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 45–48 mm

Notes: Differs from other *Neptis* species in having a pale, mottled underside. Attracted to fermenting plant matter and wet earth. Flies or floats, apparently aimlessly, round trees and shrubs, frequently settling on leaves. Larval food plants include the Caster Oil Bush *Ricinus communis*, Forest False-nettle *Acalypha glabrata* and the Hiccup Nut *Combretum bracteosum*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak Dec–May.

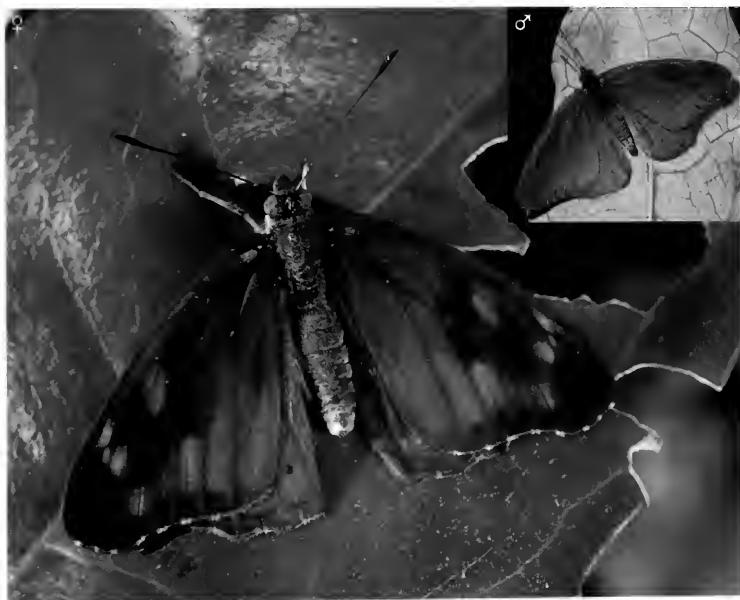
National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O		O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Tree Nymph*Sevenia boisduvali boisduvali***Boisduval's Tree Nymph****Alternate common name:** Brown Tree Nymph**Afrikaans common name:** Boisduval-se-boombruintjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 38–45 mm

Notes: Smallest and most abundant Tree Nymph. A dull-coloured, forest-loving Nymphalid that is rarely missed about the coastal forests of KwaZulu-Natal. Strongly attracted to fermenting fruit. Food plants include the Jumping-seed Tree *Sapium ellipticum* and the Duikerberry *Sapium integerrimum*.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Dec–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Jokers*Byblia anvatara acheloia***Common Joker****Alternate common name:** Joker**Afrikaans common name:** Tolliegrasvegter**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 43–48 mm**Notes:** Considerable seasonal variation. Abundant in warm savanna, grassland, coastal and lowland forest.**Flight period:** Year-round; two main overlapping broods, summer (Nov–Mar) more numerous than winter (May–Aug).

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

*Byblia ilithyia***Spotted Joker**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Leliëgrasvegter

Wingspan: ♂ 38–43 mm ♀ 40–45 mm

Notes: Slightly smaller than the Common Joker. Widespread in coastal and inland savanna and grassland. The Common Joker and Spotted Joker have the same larval food plants, namely the Stinging Nettle Creeper *Tragia glabrata* and the Wild Hop *Dalechampia capensis*.

Flight period: Continuous broods, peak Nov–Mar, smaller peak May–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O		O	

Family Nymphalidae

Pipers*Eurytela dryope angulata***Golden Piper****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Oranjelint-bosvlieër**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 45–55 mm**Notes:** Similar to the Pied Piper, but wing bands orange, not white, on a brown ground colour. Flight slightly faster. The width of the hindwing band varies considerably. Not as common as the Pied Piper.**Flight period:** Year-round, peak Nov–Jun.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Eurytela hiarbas angustata

Pied Piper

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witlint-bosvlieër

Wingspan: ♂ 45–50 mm ♀ 48–55 mm

Notes: The white bar on a brown-black background is conspicuous.

Common in afro-montane, lowland and riverine forest. Flies slowly along the edge of bushes, settling frequently, but is very wary.

Flight period: Continuously brooded; peak Nov–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Diadems*Hypolimnys misippus***Common Diadem****Alternate common name:** Diadem**Afrikaans common names:** Blouglans (male), Na-aper (female)**Wingspan:** ♂ 60–65 mm ♀ 70–80 mm**Notes:** Male is a strong flier and is territorial on hilltops and in forest clearings. Sexes dimorphic, distinctive. Polymorphic females are mimics of all forms of the unpalatable African Monarch. Prefers wooded country and often visits gardens and flowers.**Flight period:** Year-round, peak late summer.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O	O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

*Hypolimnasthe anthedon wahlbergi***Variable Diadem**

Alternate common name: Variable Mimic

Afrikaans common name: Verneukertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 75–80 mm ♀ 75–90 mm

Notes: Often found along forest streams where there is a break in the canopy. Roosts in holes under tree roots.

Flight period: Year-round, peak late summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Mother-of-Pearl*Protonotomorphia parhassus***Mother-of-Pearl****Alternate common name:** Common Mother-of-Pearl**Afrikaans common names:** Perlemoenskoenlapper, Perlemoenvlinder**Wingspan:** ♂ 65–80 mm ♀ 75–90 mm

Notes: White to pale green, with a greenish to gold iridescent sheen and black-edged wings. Larger than Clouded Mother-of-Pearl, that also lacks the green gloss. Seasonal forms differ considerably; in winter, specimens are greener and less well marked on both sides of the wings. Often seen on flowers.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

Pirate*Catacroptera cloanthe cloanthe***Pirate****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Seerower**Wingspan:** ♂ 50–58 mm ♀ 55–62 mm**Notes:** Unmistakable. Often close to streams and springs. One of the earliest highveld butterflies in spring. Characteristic upper hindwing row of blue spots. Often found along stream banks and in marshy valleys.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas; mainly Sept–Apr in cool zones.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family Nymphalidae

Commodores*Junonia tugela tugela***African Leaf Commodore**

Alternate common names: Eared Commodore, Dry Leaf Commodore, African Leaf Butterfly

Afrikaans common name: Tugela-blaarvlerk

Wingspan: ♂ 55–60 mm ♀ 58–64 mm

Notes: Found in afro-montane forest on South Africa's eastern escarpment. One of the finest dead-leaf mimics. No two undersides are exactly alike. Specimens often settle on low vegetation on the edges of forests or along forest roads. They are very wary, and if disturbed, fly up into the forest canopy. Female usually larger than the male, with a broader yellow band on the upperside.

Flight period: All year, with distinct seasonal forms: DSF Apr–Aug, WSF Sept–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Precis archesia archesia***Garden Commodore****Alternate common name:** Garden Inspector**Afrikaans common name:** Rotsblaarvlerk**Wingspan:** ♂ 45–50 mm ♀ 50–60 mm**Notes:** The most familiar *Precis* in South Africa. Seasonal difference in colour between the DSF (*f. archesia*) and WSF (*f. pelasgis*). DSF roosts in hollows under banks and rocks. WSF more often found on hilltops.**Flight period:** Year-round, two main broods: *f. pelasgis* (WSF) Sept–Mar, *f. archesia* (DSF) Apr–Aug.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

*Precis octavia sesamus***Gaudy Commodore****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Rooi-en-blou-blaarvlerk**Wingspan:** ♂ 50–60 mm ♀ 55–63 mm

Notes: Great seasonal difference in colour between the DSF (blue) and WSF (pink to orange-red). The winter form (DSF) prefers shady places, to settle under a bank or in some deep road cutting. The summer form (WSF) prefers hilltops, koppies and mountain peaks. Regular visitor to gardens.

Flight period: All year, with distinct seasonal dimorphism: DSF Mar–Aug, WSF Aug–Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Nymphalidae

Pansies

Junonia oenone oenone

Blue Pansy

Alternate common name: Black Pansy

Afrikaans common name: Blou-gesiggie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–50 mm ♀ 48–52 mm

Notes: Common, but not as widespread as the Yellow Pansy. Herbaceous borders always attract this butterfly.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peaks Oct and Nov, and Feb–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					○	○	○	○

Family Nymphalidae

*Junonia natalica natalica***Brown Commodore****Alternate common name:** Brown Pansy**Afrikaans common name:** Natal-gesiggie**Wingspan:** ♂ 45–50 mm ♀ 48–55 mm**Notes:** Common, wary and easily disturbed. The seasonal forms are slightly different, with the ocelli showing up well on the underside of both wings in the summer form.**Flight period:** Year-round, peaks Oct and Nov, and Feb–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Junonia orithya madagascariensis

Eyed Pansy

Alternate common name: Ox-eyed Pansy

Afrikaans common name: Padwagttertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–42 mm ♀ 40–48 mm

Notes: Widespread but uncommon. Mostly inland savanna and grassland. Not as common as the Blue Pansy and Yellow Pansy.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peaks Aug–Nov, and Feb–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		O

Family Nymphalidae

*Junonia terea elgiva***Soldier Pansy****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Bos-gesiggie**Wingspan:** ♂ 50–55 mm ♀ 52–60 mm**Notes:** Similar to the African Leaf Commodore. Settles often on low foliage. Seasonal forms do not differ much.**Flight period:** Two main broods, peak early summer (Oct and Nov), and autumn to winter (Apr–Jul).

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Nymphalidae

*Junonia hierta cebrene***Yellow Pansy**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Geel-gesiggie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 40–50 mm

Notes: Common and widespread. Its grey underside provides good protection while at rest—if the wings are closed.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, peaks Oct and Nov, and Feb–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O				O	O	O	O	O

Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

Painted Lady

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Sondagsrokkie

Wingspan: 40–45 mm 45–50 mm

Notes: Often the only active butterfly in cold areas in winter. Strongly migratory. Well known in most parts of the world.

Flight period: Year-round; two main peaks, Aug–Oct, and Mar–Jul.



Photo: Christopher Willis

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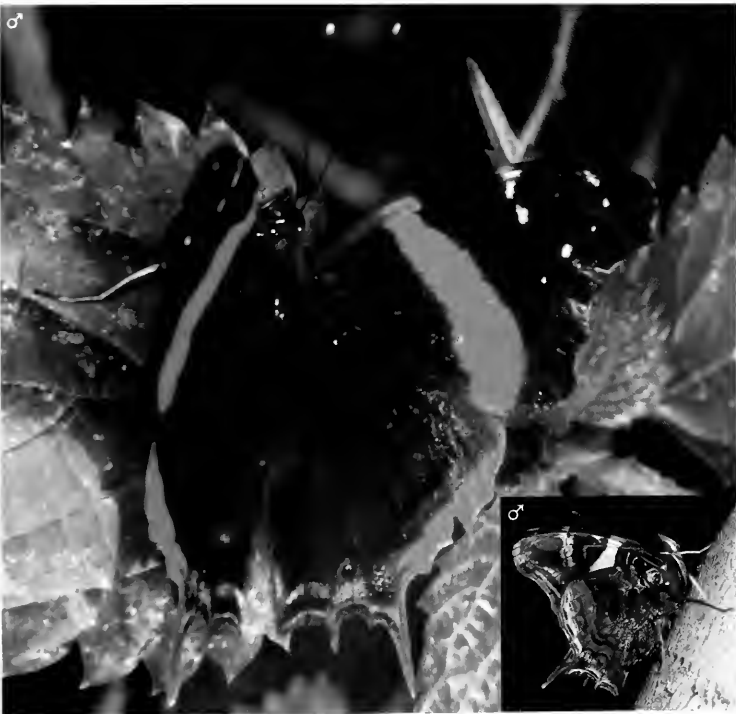
Family Nymphalidae

Admiral*Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia***Long-tailed Admiral**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Langstert-bosnooientjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–48 mm ♀ 45–50 mm

Notes: Tails longer than in other *Antanartia* species; flight stronger. Very shy and wary, difficult to approach.**Flight period:** Year-round; peak Jan–Jun.

National Botanical Garden

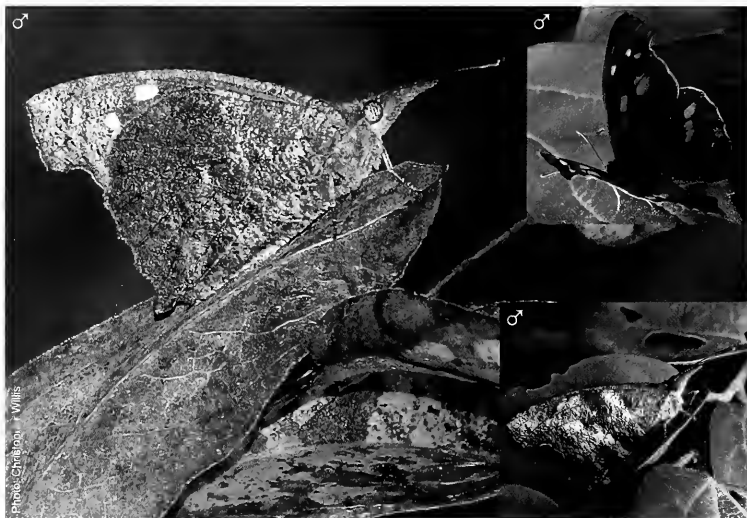
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Nymphalidae

Snout*Libythea labdaca laius***African Snout****Alternate common name:** African Snout Butterfly**Afrikaans common names:** Snuitskoenlapper, Snuitvlinder**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–46 mm ♀ 45–50 mm

Notes: Common name refers to the insect's long labial palps. Frequents forest canopy, flying lower to sit on tree branches and wet mud. Wary and difficult to approach. Food plants include various *Celtis* (White Stinkwood) species. The subfamily Libytheinae is considered to be an ancient group, a fossil representative having been found in Oligocene beds, some 30 million years old, at Florissant, Colorado, USA, in the 1880s.

Flight period: Multiple broods in warmer months, Oct–Apr. Jun and Jul winter brood in warmer areas.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Lycaenidae

Zulus, Rocksitters, Buffs, Purples, Woolly Legs, Skollies, Sapphires, Hairstreaks, Black-eyes, Proteas, Playboys, Fig-tree Blues, High-fliers, Bars, Gems, Scarlets, Arrowheads, Coppers, Opals, Greys, Sorrel Coppers, Hairtails, Black Heart, Bronzes, Hintza Blue, Pies, Blues, Dusky Blues, Ant Blues, Meadow Blues, Dwarf Blue, Jewel Blues

Zulu

Alaena amazoula

Yellow Zulu

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Geel-zoeloe

Wingspan: ♂ 22–28 mm ♀ 25–32 mm

Notes: Two subspecies. Male with dark scaling, heavier along veins than in the female. Low, weak flight. Larvae feed on the blue-green algal component of lichens.

Flight period: Single-brooded, Oct–May with a peak from Dec–Jan.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Lycaenidae

Bufs*Pentila tropicalis***Spotted Buff****Alternate common names:** Spotted Pentila, Southern Spotted Buff**Afrikaans common name:** Spikkel-geelvlerkie**Wingspan:** ♂ 29–38 mm ♀ 34–44 mm**Notes:** Occurs in shady forest understorey. Ground colour buff to orange with black speckles or spots. The larvae feed on blue-green algae growing on tree bark.**Flight period:** Oct–May.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Lycaenidae

Woolly Legs*Lachnocnema dur bani***D'Urban's Woolly Legs**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: D'Urban-se-wolpootjie

Wingspan: ♂ 24–28 mm ♀ 24–30 mm

Notes: The group is defined by individuals having distinctive woolly legs. Always found in grassy areas. Settles to suck the secretions of scale insects (Homoptera). The larvae feed on the immature stages and adults of these scale insects.

Flight period: Year-round with peaks in spring and late summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

Skolly*Thestor braunsi***Brauns's Skolly****Alternate common name:** Brauns's Thestor**Afrikaans common name:** Brauns-se-skollie**Wingspan:** ♂ 26–28 mm ♀ 27–30 mm

Notes: First recorded by Dr Georges van Son and David Swanepoel in the Karoo in March 1940. Found in dry riverbeds and on hillsides. A wary insect. Easily disturbed and flies away rapidly, but often comes back to the same patch of ground. All members of the *Thestor* genus lack a proboscis and cannot feed. They tend to have short, sedentary lives spent near the larval food source, which is not known in this species but in others is mouth-to-mouth feeding from *Anoplolepis* ants. This is the only member of the genus that is double-brooded.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Oct and Mar being the best months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
			O					

Family Lycaenidae

Sapphires*Stugeta bowkeri bowkeri***Bowker's Sapphire**

Alternate common name: Bowker's Marbled Sapphire

Afrikaans common name: Bowker-se-marmersaffier

Wingspan: ♂ 26–32 mm ♀ 29–41 mm

Notes: One of three subspecies. Flight slower than other sapphires.Underside cryptic. Upperside and underside dark blotches distinctive of this species and the Dusky Sapphire. Both sexes attracted to flowers, sometimes in numbers. Larval food plant comprises the parasitic flowering plant *Viscum rotundifolium*.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, Sept–May, peaks Oct and Mar.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
			O					

Family Lycaenidae

*Iolaus sidus***Red-line Sapphire**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Rooistreep-saffier

Wingspan: ♂ 28–31 mm ♀ 29–32 mm

Notes: Easily identified bright red underside lines. Larval food plants include several species of Loranthaceae mistletoes such as *Moquiniella rubra* and *Tapinanthus oleifolius*.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks in summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

*Iolaus silarus silarus***Straight-line Sapphire****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Reguitlyn-saffier**Wingspan:** ♂ 32–38 mm ♀ 35–40 mm**Notes:** Forewings more pointed than Southern Sapphire. Transverse red hindwing line on underside generally but not reliably straight, not curved. Larval food plant is the mistletoe *Erianthemum dregei*.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, Sept–Jan in cooler, western part of range.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Trimen-se-saffier

Wingspan: ♂ 34–40 mm ♀ 36–42 mm

Notes: Male an exuberant hilltopper. Hindwing underside transverse stripe thin, often broken, black not red. Larval food plant includes various *Tapinanthus* species.

Flight period: Year-round, peak from Sept–Jan.

[illegible]

Family Lycaenidae

Hairstreak*Hypolycaena philippus philippus***Purple-brown Hairstreak**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Persbruin-stertbloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–28 mm ♀ 23–31 mm

Notes: Hindwing tails conspicuous. Female lacks purple sheen of the male. Larva has several food plants including Tinderwood *Clerodendrum glabrum* and the Dune Soap-berry *Deinbollia oblongifolia*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peaks in Nov and Mar/Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

Black-eyes*Leptomyrina lara***Cape Black-eye**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kaapse-swartogje

Wingspan: ♂ 20–29 mm ♀ 23–31 mm

Notes: Distinctive bright bronze-brown upperside. Male chases intruders. Low, zigzagging flight.

Flight period: Several broods in spring and summer, Aug–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O	O		O	O				

Family Lycaenidae

*Leptomyrina gorgias gorgias***Common Black-eye**

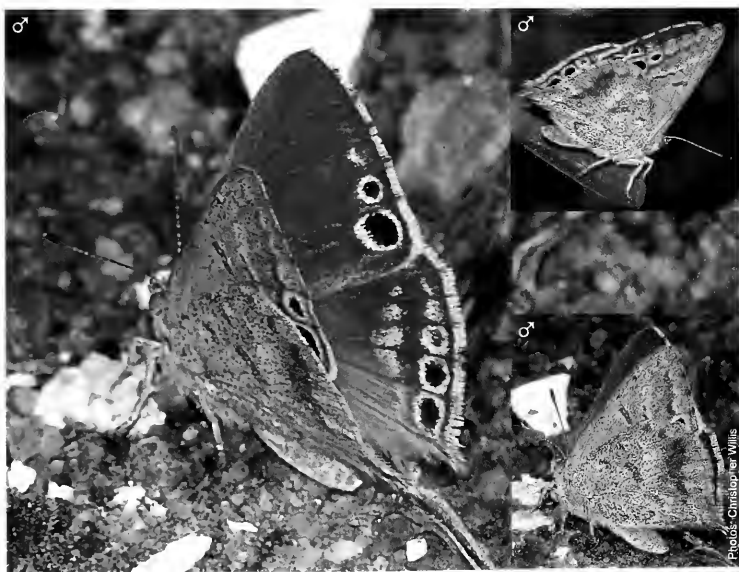
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Gewone-swartogte

Wingspan: ♂ 18–29 mm ♀ 25–32 mm

Notes: Closest to Henning's Black-eye in appearance. Extensive mauve-grey basal scaling on male upperside. Larval food plants of all Black-eyes include species of *Kalanchoe*, *Crassula* and *Cotyledon*.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Nov and Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

*Leptomyrina henningi***Henning's Black-eye**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Henning-se-swartogie

Wingspan: ♂ 18–29 mm ♀ 25–32 mm

Notes: Larger than the Cape Black-eye, with more angular wings.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks in Nov and Mar.



Photo: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O							O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Leptomyrina hirundo***Tailed Black-eye****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Langstert-swartogte**Wingspan:** ♂ 19–24 mm ♀ 19–26 mm**Notes:** Unmistakable; long white tails. Flutters slowly close to the ground, often settling on low leaves.**Flight period:** Year-round, peaks in Nov and Mar.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

Proteas*Capys alphaeus***Orange-banded Protea**

Alternate common name: Protea Scarlet

Afrikaans common names: Oranjeband-suikerbossie, Suikerbossie

Wingspan: ♂ 31–40 mm ♀ 32–47 mm

Notes: Endemic to South Africa. Unmistakable broad red bands in both sexes. The most brightly coloured *Capys*. Usually only seen near larval food plants—the immature seeds of various *Protea* species. Male forms territories on hilltops, chasing intruders.

Flight period: Two main broods: Aug–Nov and Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O	O			

Family Lycaenidae

*Capys disjunctus disjunctus***Russet Protea**

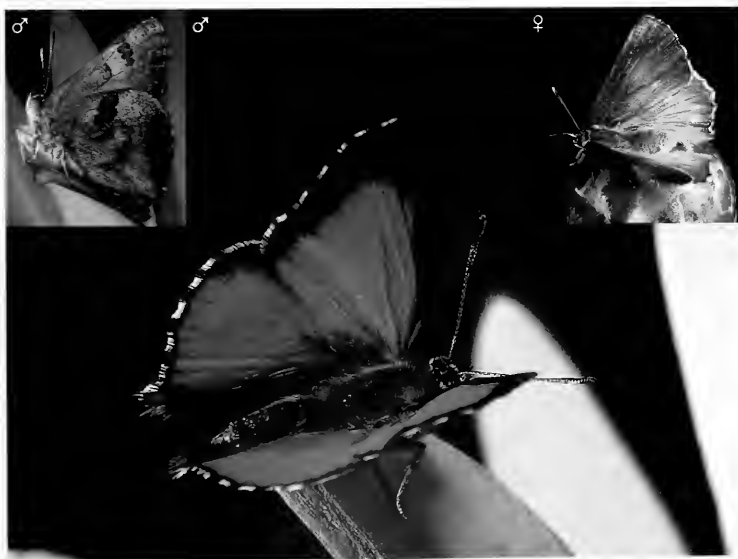
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Sannie-se-suikerbossie

Wingspan: ♂ 31–37 mm ♀ 31–38 mm

Notes: The most widespread *Protea* butterfly in South Africa, and the only one known to show sexual dimorphism.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Aug–Oct and Jan–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

Playboy*Deudorix antalus***Brown Playboy**

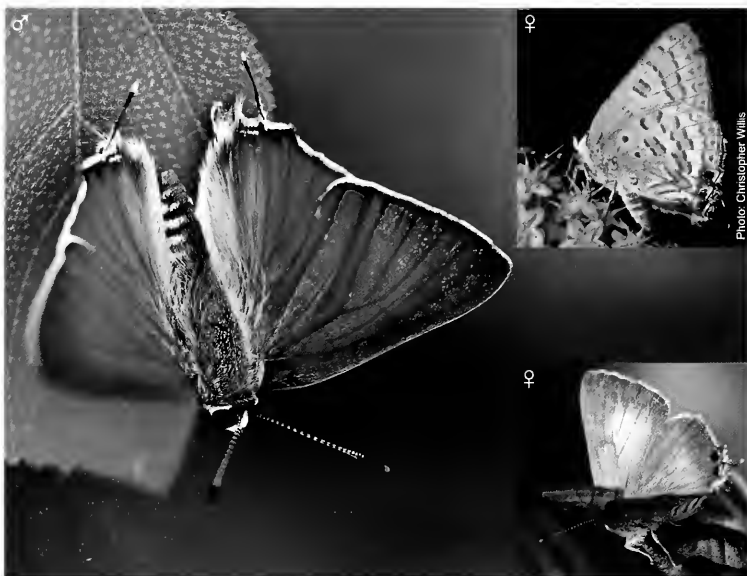
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Bruin-spelertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–34 mm ♀ 22–40 mm

Notes: Most common and widespread *Deudorix* species. Occurs throughout South Africa except on the highest mountains in Lesotho. Larva has many food plants, usually feeding on the seeds.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks in Sept–Oct and Mar–May.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		O

Family Lycaenidae

Fig-tree Blue*Myrina silenus***Common Fig-tree Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Vyeboombloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 26–34 mm ♀ 33–41 mm

Notes: Long, thick tails and iridescent blue upperside markings. Underside is a dead-leaf mimic. Flight appears mechanical and jerky. Larvae feed on the young shoots of fig trees.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Sept–Oct and Apr–Jun.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

Bars*Cigaritis ella***Ella's Bar**

Alternate common name: Ella's Red Blue

Afrikaans common name: Ella-se-streepvlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 21–24 mm ♀ 25–30 mm

Notes: Small *Cigaritis*. Male an active hilltopper. Larvae feed on *Acacia* and *Ximenia*.**Flight period:** Year-round, peaks Aug–Oct and Mar–Jul.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								○

Family Lycaenidae

*Cigaritis mozambica***Mozambique Bar****Alternate common name:** Mozambique Red Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Mosambiek-streepvlerkie**Wingspan:** ♂ 22–25 mm ♀ 25–28 mm**Notes:** Darker than other *Cigaritis* species; underside has deep orange bars on a cream background. Found in concentrated colonies on hillsides and at the base of hills. Both sexes strongly attracted to flowers. Larvae feed on the Wild Sweetpea Bush *Sphenostylis angustifolia*.**Flight period:** Year-round, but more common Sept–May; peaks late summer.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

*Cigaritis natalensis***Natal Bar**

Alternate common names: Natal Barred Blue, Natal Red Bar

Afrikaans common name: Natalse-streepvlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 25–32 mm ♀ 26–34 mm

Notes: Widespread and common, often settling upside down with half-open wings. Both sexes found at mud puddles and on flowers. Larvae have a wide food plant spectrum including the Turkey-berry *Canthium inerme*, Tinderwood *Clerodendrum glabrum* and Sourplum *Ximenia caffra*.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Sept–Oct and Mar–May.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family Lycaenidae

Scarlet*Axiocerses tjoane tjoane***Common Scarlet****Alternate common name:** Eastern Scarlet**Afrikaans common name:** Ralie-rooivlerkie**Wingspan:** ♂ 24–32 mm ♀ 25–34 mm**Notes:** Upperside of wings red with black markings, underside cryptic. Rapid, darting flight. Both sexes found on flowers. Larvae feed on *Acacia* and *Peltophorum*.**Flight period:** Year-round, peaks Sept–Nov and Mar–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		O

Family Lycaenidae

Arrowhead*Phasis clavum***Namaqua Arrowhead**

Alternate common names: Boland Copper, Samba Copper

Afrikaans common name: Samba-pylpuntjie

Wingspan: ♂ 29–39 mm ♀ 35–44 mm

Notes: Larval food comprises various species of *Searsia* (formerly *Rhus*).

Flight period: Single-brooded, Sept–Nov, sometimes into Jan.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

Coppers*Aloeides aranda***Aranda Copper**

Alternate common name: Common African Copper

Afrikaans common name: Aranda-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 20–29 mm ♀ 27–31 mm

Notes: Has a tail-like projection at the hindwing anal angle. Male perches on low vegetation or rocks, and chases other butterflies. Female more sedentary.

Flight period: Sept–Apr in warm areas, peaks Oct and Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

*Aloeides damarensis***Damara Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Damara-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 25–32 mm ♀ 28–36 mm

Notes: Underside similar to Dull Copper. Larvae use various low-growing plants such as *Aspalathus* and *Gnidia*.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, Sept–Apr in southern areas, year-round in arid north.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

*Aloeides depicta***Depicta Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Depicta-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 26–29 mm ♀ 29–35 mm

Notes: Very variable. Hindwing underside ground colour sandy to buff-brown, occasionally reddish. Sexes similar; female paler, wings rounder.

Flight period: Continuous broods through warmer months, Sept–Jun.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
			O					

Family Lycaenidae

*Aloeides pierus***Dull Copper****Alternate common name:** Streaked Copper**Afrikaans common name:** Dowwe-kopervlerkie**Wingspan:** 25–30 mm**Notes:** Male upperside tawny red, dark borders very wide, veins black. Female paler, upperside orange more extensive, penetrating the forewing apical area.**Flight period:** Several broods; Sept–Apr; peaks Oct and Feb.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

*Aloeides taikosama***Dusky Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Donker-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–27 mm ♀ 27–33 mm

Notes: In small colonies; settles on bare earth. Easily flushed, seldom flying far from the colony.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, Aug–Apr, with peaks in Nov and Mar.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

*Aloeides henningi***Henning's Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Henning-se-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 23–26 mm ♀ 24–26 mm

Notes: Larger than similar Susan's Copper, forewing more pointed. Forewing outer margin straighter than Almeida Copper. Larvae feed on *Aspalathus* and the Creeping Red Hermannia *Hermannia depressa*.

Flight period: In cooler areas single-brooded, Sept–Nov; in warm areas, second brood, Jan–Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Lycaenidae

*Chrysoritis zeuxo***Jitterbug Daisy Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Suidkus-kopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–25 mm ♀ 24–28 mm

Notes: Usually found close to its larval food plant, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*. Rarely seen feeding at flowers. The female is scarcer than the male and is best distinguished by the duller lustre of the orange-yellow colour on the upperside and her stouter abdomen.

Flight period: Single-brooded, Sept–Jan, with a peak from Oct–Nov.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O				

Family Lycaenidae

Opal*Chrysoritis pan lysander***Lysander Opal**

Alternate common name: Pan Opal

Afrikaans common name: Lysander-opaal

Wingspan: ♂ 20–28 mm ♀ 22–32 mm

Notes: Larvae associated with *Crematogaster* cocktail ants.

Flight period: Several broods Aug–May, peaks Oct/Nov and Feb/Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

Grey*Crudaria leroma***Silver-spotted Grey****Alternate common name:** Silver-studded Grey**Afrikaans common name:** Spikkel-valetjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 20–32 mm ♀ 25–34 mm

Notes: Very variable, especially on the underside; series of spots on both wings vary from strongly outlined in black to almost invisible. Upperside varies from pale grey to olive-brown. Sexes similar, female larger, wings rounder. Hindwing has a short tail. Usually found in bare rocky areas; fond of flowers. Larvae feed on *Acacia* species and the Broad-pod Elephant-root *Elephantorrhiza burkei*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, Oct–Mar in cooler areas.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

Sorrel Copper*Lycaena clarki***Eastern Sorrel Copper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Oostelike-kleinkopervlerkie

Wingspan: ♂ 21–27 mm ♀ 22–30 mm

Notes: Has pale rings around dark spots on the underside. Usually found in vleis and along watercourses where its food plant *Rumex* grows.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak in summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O								

Family Lycaenidae

Hairtails

Anthene amarah amarah

Black-striped Hairtail

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Swartstreep-kortstertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 21–26 mm ♀ 23–29 mm

Notes: Unique black streak at the forewing base on the underside of both sexes. Very fond of *Acacia* flowers. Larvae feed on *Acacia*.

Flight period: Year-round, peak in summer.

[illegible]

Family Lycaenidae

*Anthene definita definita***Common Hairtail**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Donker-kortstertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 21–27 mm ♀ 24–29 mm

Notes: Sexes dimorphic. Widespread and common in the northern parts of South Africa and around the coast. Male has pointed wings, upperside deep steel-blue, and underside dove-grey, with rows of slightly darker grey spots. Female upperside is pale blue with grey borders. Larvae have a very wide food plant spectrum.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak in summer.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O	O		O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Anthene butleri livida***Pale Hairtail****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common names:** Bleek-kortstertjie, Vaal-kortstertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 23–28 mm ♀ 25–32 mm**Notes:** Male a common midday hilltopper in rocky, hilly country. Larvae feed on *Kalanchoe*.**Flight period:** Year-round, peak in warmer months.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	

Family Lycaenidae

Black Heart*Uranotauma nubifer nubifer***Black Heart****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Swart-hartbloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 22–26 mm ♀ 24–28 mm**Notes:** Common name refers to the black scent patch in the centre of the male forewing on the upperside, but absent in the female. Fond of flowers and wet mud. Larvae feed on *Acacia karroo*.**Flight period:** Year-round, peak Nov–Feb.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Lycaenidae

Bronzes*Cacyreus lingeus***Bush Bronze**

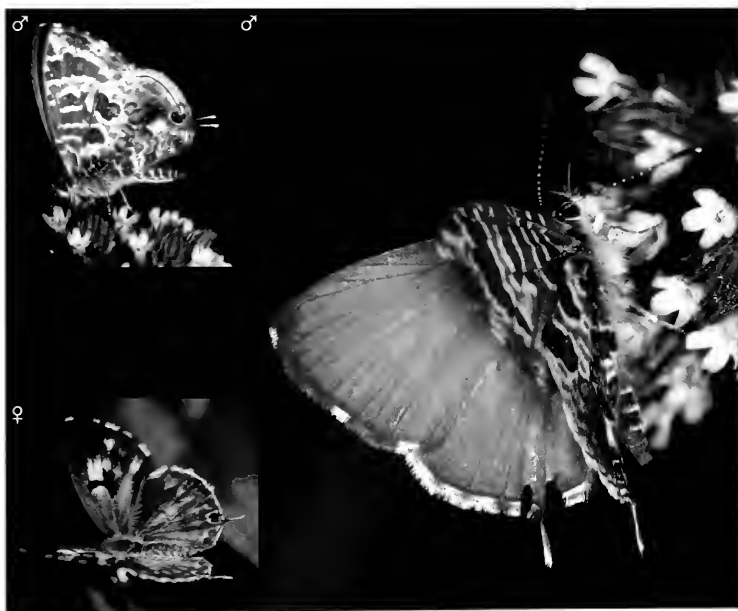
Alternate common name: Bush Blue

Afrikaans common name: Bos-malvabloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–27 mm ♀ 22–28 mm

Notes: Favours stream banks, wooded kloofs and gardens. Larvae feed on *Salvia*, *Plectranthus* and *Leonotis*.

Flight period: Year-round, peak from Oct–Feb, seldom in winter months in cooler areas.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Lycaenidae

*Cacyreus dicksoni***Dickson's Geranium Bronze**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Dickson-se-malvabloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 16–24 mm ♀ 19–25 mm

Notes: Smaller than the Geranium Bronze, upperside deeper, more metallic bronze in both sexes. Underside with more basal white marbling than the Geranium Bronze. Larva with food plants similar to those of the Geranium Bronze.

Flight period: Aug–Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

*Cacyreus marshalli***Geranium Bronze****Alternate common names:** Common Geranium Bronze, Geranium Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Malvabloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 15–23 mm ♀ 18–27 mm**Notes:** Range overlaps with the Water Bronze, but the upperside lacks the violet or violet-blue sheen of the Water Bronze. Widespread owing to adaptation to cultivated pelargoniums. Probably originally only in southwestern parts of South Africa, but has spread to the rest of the country and even to Europe.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, usually Aug–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O	O		O	O		O	O

Family Lycaenidae

Cacyreus virilis

Mocker Bronze

Alternate common name: Mocker Blue

Afrikaans common name: Na-aper-malvabloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 24–26 mm ♀ 24–27 mm

Notes: Very similar to, but not as widespread as the Bush Bronze. Larva has similar food plants.

Flight period: Year-round, with peak Nov–Feb.

[illegible]

Family Lycaenidae

Hintza Blue*Zintha hintza hintza***Hintza Blue**

Alternate common name: Hintza Pierrot

Afrikaans common name: Hintza-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 24–28 mm ♀ 24–27 mm

Notes: One of South Africa's most striking small blues. Found wherever its food plants, species of *Ziziphus*, grow.

Flight period: Sept–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Lycaenidae

Pie*Tuxentius melaena melaena***Black Pie**

Alternate common name: None

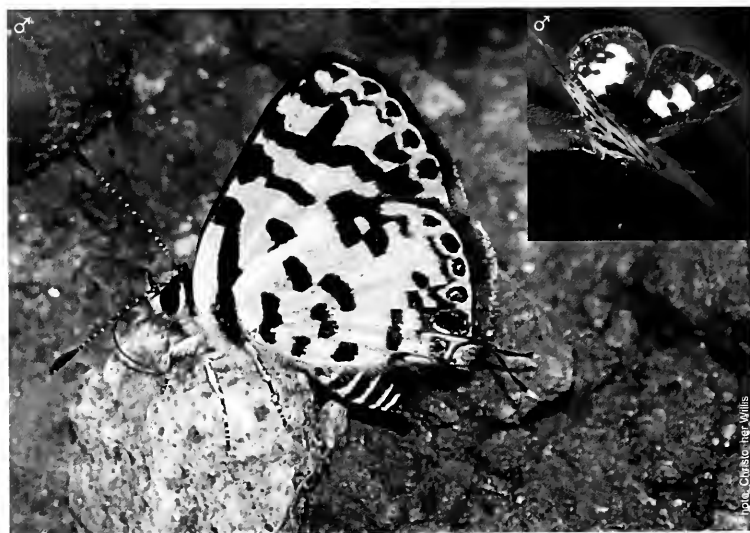
Afrikaans common names: Swart-bontetjie, Bont-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 19–24 mm ♀ 21–25 mm

Notes: Similar to the White Pie; distinguished by underside markings.

Larvae feed on *Ziziphus* species.

Flight period: Year-round, most common from Oct–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		O

Family Lycaenidae

Blues*Leptotes babaulti***Babault's Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Babault-se-ertjiebloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–29 mm ♀ 26–30 mm

Notes: Only really distinguishable from other members of the Common Blue group by genital dissection. Underside grey tends to be darker than in others of the group.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Nov–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

*Leptotes pirithous pirithous***Common Zebra Blue****Alternate common name:** Common Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Gewone-ertjiebloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 21–29 mm ♀ 24–30 mm**Notes:** Attracted to wet mud. Distinguishable from other members of the Common Blue group only by genital dissection. Common and widespread throughout South Africa in all biomes; absent only from the highest mountains. Larvae feed on *Plumbago*.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, Oct–Mar in cooler areas.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
			O	O	O	O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Tarucus sybaris sybaris***Dotted Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Spikkelbloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–26 mm ♀ 20–27 mm

Notes: Only member of the *Tarucus* genus in South Africa to carry a hindwing tail. Underside (both sexes) white, polka-dotted with black. Flight slow, close to its food plants (*Ziziphus* species)

Flight period: Year-round, peak from Nov–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Tarucus thespis***Fynbos or Vivid Blue**

Alternate common names: Vivid Dotted Blue, Macchia Blue

Afrikaans common name: Fynbos-spikkelbloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 20–25 mm ♀ 20–27 mm

Notes: Underside forewing has white chequering on a dark grey background. Larvae feed on *Phyllica imberbis*.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Sept–Nov and Feb/Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O				

Family Lycaenidae

*Lampides boeticus***Pea Blue**

Alternate common names: Long-tailed Blue, Lucerne Blue

Afrikaans common name: Lusern-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 24–32 mm ♀ 24–34 mm

Notes: Common and widespread all over the Old World and Africa.

Underside with distinctive white lines on a fawn ground colour. Larva feeds on a vast variety of legumes (lentils, peas, beans and vetches—defined as legumes in the genus *Vicia*).

Flight period: Year-round with peak from Nov–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Lycaenidae

*Leptotes brevidentatus***Short-toothed Blue**

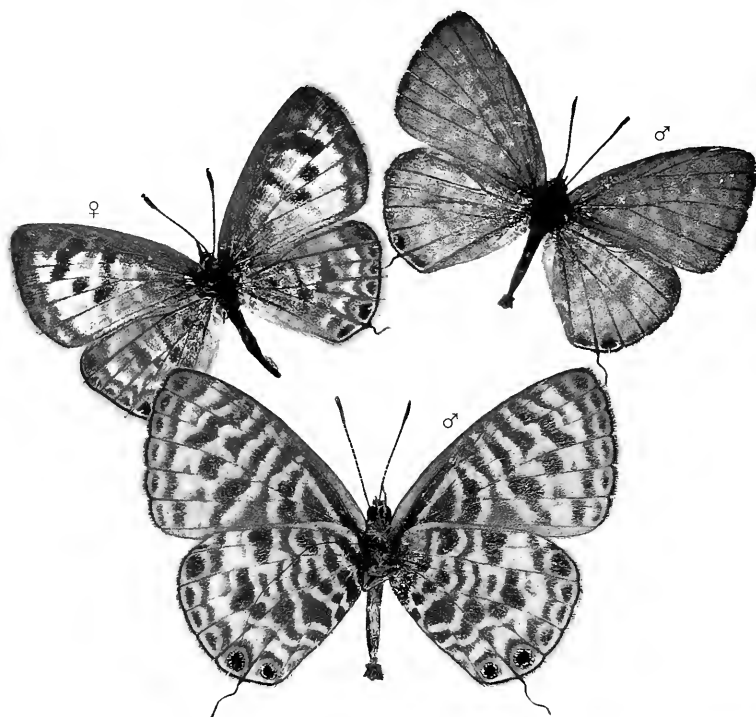
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kortgetande-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–29 mm ♀ 26–30 mm

Notes: Distinguishable from other members of the Common Blue group only by genital dissection. Attracted to wet mud.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, Oct–Mar in cooler areas.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

Dusky Blue*Pseudonacaduba sichela sichela***Dusky Line Blue**

Alternate common name: Dusky Blue

Afrikaans common name: Donker-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 25–28 mm ♀ 25–27 mm

Notes: Small blue. Underside of both sexes is slate-grey, with fine white striations. Often found on wet mud along streams. Larvae feed on Cork-bush *Mundulea sericea*.

Flight period: Continuous broods, Oct–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	

Family Lycaenidae

Ant Blues*Lepidochrysops macgregori***McGregor's Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: McGregor-se-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 28–32 mm ♀ 30–33 mm

Notes: Brown upperside has bright coppery golden sheen. The Hantam National Botanical Garden outside Nieuwoudtville serves as the type locality for this species, where it was first recorded by Ken Pennington on the Farm Glenlyon on 6 September 1968. Named for Mr and Mrs Gordon MacGregor, owners of the Farm Glenlyon at the time. Underside similar to Pennington's Blue.

Flight period: Single-brooded, late Aug to early Oct.



Photos: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O							

Family Lycaenidae

*Lepidochrysops patricia***Patricia Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Patricia-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–44 mm ♀ 36–46 mm

Notes: Male upperside pearlescent mauve-blue; female upperside has mauve-blue on brown-grey ground colour. The young larvae feed on seeds of *Lantana* and *Salvia* species. Like other *Lepidochrysops* blues, they enter the nests of *Camponotus* ants when half grown, to feed on their young.

Flight period: Two broods, Sept–Dec and Jan–Apr, with some overlap.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family Lycaenidae

*Lepidochrysops plebeia plebeia***Twin-spot Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Dubbelkol-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–43 mm ♀ 38–45 mm

Notes: Common savanna species. Female upperside violet-blue, resembling the Patricia Blue. Compared with others of the group, has an extra hindwing underside black spot. Larva feeds on *Lantana* before switching to the ant brood.

Flight period: Two broods, Sept–Dec and Jan–Apr, with some overlap.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

*Lepidochrysops ignota***Zulu Blue****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Zoeloe-bloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 27–29 mm ♀ 27–30 mm**Notes:** Small brown species, upperside grey-brown; underside paler grey, with small blackish spots. Flight rapid and jinking close to the ground, difficult to follow. Larva feeds on Cat's Whiskers *Becium obovatum* before switching to the ant brood.**Flight period:** Single-brooded, Oct–Nov.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Smoky Blue

Euchrysops dolorosa

Alternate common names: Sabie Blue, Odzani Blue

Afrikaans common name: Sabie-dowwebloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–26 mm ♀ 23–29 mm

Notes: Flight low, weak and erratic, settling on flowers or the ground. Larvae feed on *Salvia* and *Becium*.

Flight period: Several broods, Aug–Mar, depending on spring rains. Peaks Oct and Feb.

[illegible]

Family Lycaenidae

Blues*Eichochrysops messapus***Cupreous Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Koperbloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 17–22 mm ♀ 17–24 mm

Notes: Two subspecies. Male of *E. messapus mahallakoeana* has a variable pinkish copper blush. Larvae feed on *Thesium* and *Indigofera*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak Oct and Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O		O	O				O

Family Lycaenidae

*Eichochrysops hippocrates***White-tipped Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witpunt-koperbloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 18–23 mm ♀ 20–24 mm

Notes: Male has a bold white forewing apical tip. Found in wet, marshy areas; seldom found far from water, where its food plants *Rumex* and *Polygonum* grow.

Flight period: Two broods, Sept–Nov and Jan–Jun.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

Meadow Blues

Cupidopsis cissus cissus

Common Meadow Blue

Alternate common name: Meadow Blue

Afrikaans common name: Vleibloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 22–34 mm ♀ 23–36 mm

Notes: Both sexes have conspicuous bright orange hindwing anal lunules; both tailless. Usually found in open grassland. Larvae feed on *Eriosema* and *Vigna*.

Flight period: Sept–Apr and May, sometimes Jun and Jul in subtropical areas.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		O

Family Lycaenidae

*Cupidopsis jobates jobates***Tailed Meadow Blue****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Aasbloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 23–30 mm ♀ 26–33 mm

Notes: Not as common as the Common Meadow Blue. Habitat similar but prefers damper areas. Hindwing carries a short anal tail. Orange lunules spread along the margin forming a band. Larvae feed on *Rhynchosia* and other low-growing legumes.

Flight period: Sept–Apr and May, sometimes to Jun and Jul in subtropical areas.



Photo: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Lycaenidae

Blues*Zizeeria knysna***African Grass Blue**

Alternate common name: Sooty Blue

Afrikaans common name: Duwweltjie-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 18–23 mm ♀ 21–26 mm

Notes: Most common small Blue, most often on suburban lawns infested with its food plant *Tribulus terrestris*, a common weed. Flight low, quite fast, circling and erratic. Described by David Swanepoel as the 'Street Dweller', the species is very widespread and fairly common in most parts of South Africa's grasslands and bushveld areas. Can be mistaken for the Tiny Grass Blue, but the following differences are the most striking: it is larger, underside colour is duller with spotting not so clear, and the body is much stouter.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Oct–Dec and Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Azanus moriqua

Black-bordered Babul Blue

Alternate common name: Thorn-tree Blue

Afrikaans common name: Doringboom-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 19–24 mm ♀ 19–25 mm

Notes: All over South Africa, but absent from high mountains and fynbos/karoo areas. Larval food includes the flowers, buds and fresh shoots of *Acacia* species such as the Sweet Thorn *Acacia karroo*.

Flight period: Continuous broods all year, mainly Sept–May.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Zizina antanossa***Clover Blue****Alternate common name:** Dark Grass Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Klavier-bloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 20–24 mm ♀ 21–28 mm**Notes:** Small blue butterfly resembling the African Grass Blue with similar low, weak flight. Seldom found far from its food plants Sweethearts *Desmodium incanum* and *Indigofera* species.**Flight period:** Year-round in warmer areas, peaks Oct–Nov and Mar–Apr.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Lycaenidae

*Azanus natalensis***Natal Babul Blue**

Alternate common names: Natal Spotted Blue, Natal Blue

Afrikaans common name: Natalse-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 23–27 mm ♀ 24–30 mm

Notes: Largest *Azanus*. Larvae feed on *Acacia*.

Flight period: Continuous broods all year, mainly Sept–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Lycaenidae

*Actizera lucida***Rayed Blue**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witstreep-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 15–23 mm ♀ 17–25 mm

Notes: Distinguished from other small Blues by having a bright white diagonal streak on the underside of the hindwing. Larvae feed on low-growing legumes.

Flight period: Year-round, more numerous in summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family Lycaenidae

*Brephidium metophis***Tinktinkie Blue****Alternate common name:** Diminutive Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Tinktinkie-bloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 16–20 mm ♀ 17–21 mm**Notes:** Very small brown butterfly. Flight low, weak and erratic. Dark hindwing submarginal spots mirroring those on the underside. Larvae feed on *Exomis microphylla*.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, depending on the rainfall.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O	O		O					

Family Lycaenidae

Azanus jesous jesous

Topaz Babul Blue

Alternate common names: Topaz-spotted Blue, Topaz Blue

Afrikaans common name: Hemels-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 17–26 mm ♀ 22–28 mm

Notes: Most common South African *Azanus*. Widespread over almost all of South Africa. Like other *Azanus* Blues, the larva feeds on *Acacia* species.

Flight period: Continuous broods from Sept–May in cooler areas; in warmer areas, year-round, peak late summer.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O	O	O

Family Lycaenidae

*Azanus ubaldus***Velvet-spotted Babul Blue**

Alternate common name: Velvet-spotted Blue

Afrikaans common name: Fluweelkol-bloutjie

Wingspan: ♂ 16–23 mm ♀ 18–21 mm

Notes: Male has a velvety blue patch on the forewing upperside. Flight slow. Underside more finely marked than in other *Azanus* species.

Flight period: Continuous broods, Sept–Apr.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Lycaenidae

Jewel Blue

Chilades trochylus

Grass Jewel

Alternate common name: Grass Jewel Blue

Afrikaans common name: Grasiuweeltiie

Wingspan: ♂ 15–19 mm ♀ 16–20 mm

Notes: Tiny brown butterflies. Flight slow and halting, low amongst vegetation. Generally solitary in grassy areas, in vleis and marshes sometimes in numbers. Larva feeds on *Heliotropium* and *Indigofera*.

Flight period: In warmer areas, continuous broods all year, mainly Oct–May. In cooler areas only found Oct–May.

[illegible]

Family Lycaenidae

Blue*Zizula hylax***Tiny Grass Blue****Alternate common name:** Gaika Blue**Afrikaans common name:** Gaika-bloutjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 17–21 mm ♀ 18–25 mm**Notes:** Delicate, small blue butterfly; flight weak; abdomen protrudes beyond hindwings. Underside has tiny black spots on pale grey ground colour.Sometimes common in riverine and coastal forests. Larvae feed on low-growing Acanthaceae such as *Justicia* and *Phaulopsis*.**Flight period:** In warmer areas, continuous broods all year, peaks Sept–Nov and Mar–Jun. In cooler areas double-brooded at those times.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Pieridae

Zebra White, Vagrants, Tips, Whites, Small Whites, Wood Whites,
Dotted Borders, Clouded Yellows, Migrants, Grass Yellows

Zebra White

Pinacopteryx eriphia eriphia

Zebra White

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kwagga

Wingspan: ♂ 40–55 mm ♀ 42–47 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of bushveld and savanna. Upperside black or brown-black, with conspicuous white to cream-yellow zebra stripes and spots.

Feeds on flowers or sometimes found sucking at damp mud. Larva feeds on *Boscia* species and Bush-cherry *Maerua caffra*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, Oct–Apr in cooler areas.



Photo: Christopher Willis

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O					O		O	O

Family Pieridae

Tips*Colotis ione***Bushveld Purple Tip****Alternate common names:** Common Purple Tip, Purple Tip**Afrikaans common name:** Bosveld-perspuntjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 45–50 mm ♀ 48–52 mm

Notes: Mostly a widespread bushveld species that also flies in suitably dry coastal bush. WSF with heavy black markings and veins blackened. DSF with reduced black markings, veins not blackened and they are generally paler. Many female forms have been described. Specimens are often seen feeding on the nectar of flowers, in particular the purple-flowered *Vernonia* species. Like many other Pieridae, the larva feeds on species of *Boscia*, *Maerua* and *Capparis*.

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall. More prevalent during summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Pieridae

*Colotis evenina evenina***Common Orange Tip**

Alternate common name: Orange Tip

Afrikaans common name: Oranjepuntjie

Wingspan: ♂ 38–45 mm ♀ 35–42 mm

Notes: A common and widespread species in savanna and woodland of southern Africa. Sexually and seasonally dimorphic; upperside resembles a small Red Tip. Larval food plants include species of *Boscia* and *Capparis* (Capparaceae).

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
O								

Family Pieridae

Colotis subfasciatus subfasciatus

Lemon Traveller

Alternate common names: Lemon Traveller Tip, Lemon Tip, King Teracolus

Afrikaans common names: Suurlemoensmous, Geelsmous

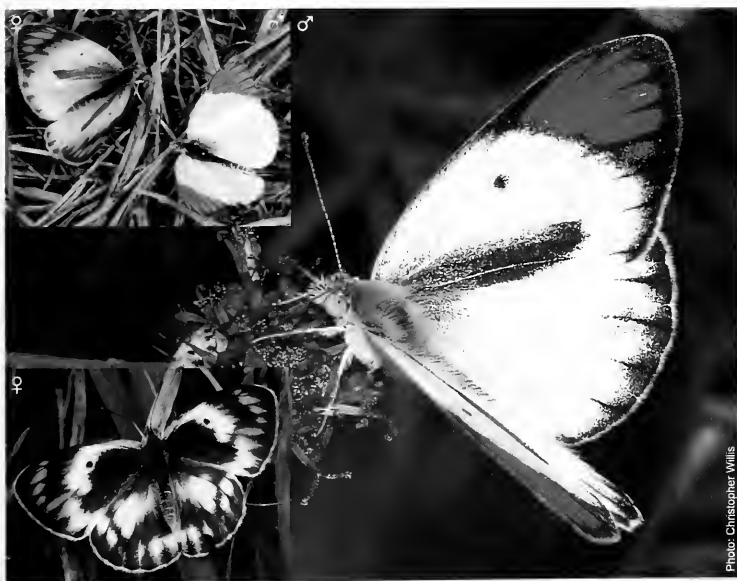
Wingspan: ♂ 45–52 mm ♀ 48–55 mm

Notes: Predominantly a bushveld species. Both sexes can be found flying at very high speeds. Males establish their territories around the larval food plants. Upperside of wings pale yellow, forewings pointed. Underside pale green, finely striated with pale grey-brown; white-edged darker line crosses the hind wing. Larval food plant is the Shepherd's Tree *Boscia albitrunca* (Capparaceae).

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas.

[illegible]

Family Pieridae

*Colotis antevippe gavis***Red Tip****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Rooipuntjie**Wingspan:** 40–45 mm**Notes:** A common and widespread inhabitant of savanna, woodland and coastal bush. Sexes are dimorphic and seasonally polymorphic. Both sexes can often be seen feeding on nectar, and occasionally visiting muddy places.**Flight period:** Year-round, depending on rainfall. Peak towards late summer and autumn.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Pieridae

*Colotis danae annae***Scarlet Tip****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Skarlakenpuntjie**Wingspan:** 35–55 mm; variation in size of seasonal forms

Notes: A widespread inhabitant of bushveld areas. Sexually and seasonally dimorphic. Normally flies in a leisurely fashion around thorn trees, but can fly rapidly if disturbed or when searching for females. A common visitor of roadside flowers. Upperside forewing of the male is white with a broad carmine-red tip. Larva feeds on *Cadaba* species, often alongside those of the Sulphur Orange Tip.

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall. Peak towards late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	

Family Pieridae

*Colotis evagore antigone***Small Orange Tip**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kleinoranjepuntjie

Wingspan: ♂ 28–35 mm ♀ 28–38 mm

Notes: A common and widespread inhabitant of arid bushveld. Has a weak flight and is seldom seen more than half a metre above the ground. Seasonally polymorphic.

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall. Usually most abundant in autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Pieridae

*Colotis euippe omphale***Smoky Orange Tip**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Donkeroranjepuntjie

Wingspan: 35–45 mm

Notes: A common and widespread inhabitant of woodland, savanna and coastal bush. WSF on the upperside with a broad black cross bar centrally and across the lower part of the hindwing. Tends to prefer to fly in the shade of trees rather than in open spaces. A common visitor to flowers and feeds at damp places.

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall. Peaks towards late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
	O					O		O

Family Pieridae

Colotis auxo

Sulphur Orange Tip

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Swaeloranjepuntjie

Wingspan: 35–40 mm

Notes: A common and widespread species in bushveld and savanna. Sexually and seasonally dimorphic. Ground colour a distinctive pale yellow.

Flight period: Year-round, depending on rainfall. Peaks towards late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

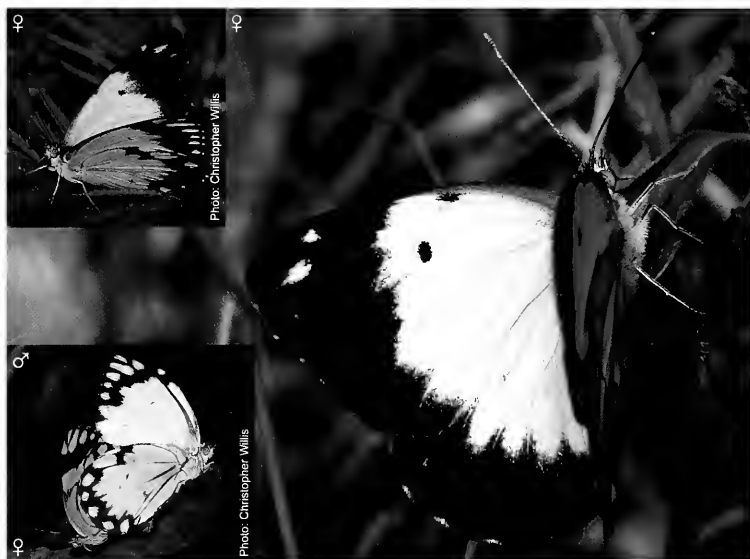
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

Whites*Belenois creona severina***African Common White****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Afrikaanse gewone witjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 42–50 mm

Notes: A common, widespread species that inhabits bushveld and woodland areas. Sexually dimorphic. Males do not fly as fast as others of the genus and are often seen flying in a leisurely manner around their woodland habitat. Can be a prolific migrant at times, especially north of South Africa, but not as often as the Brown-veined White. Hindwing with submarginal and marginal areas broadly dark brown to black.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Nov–Mar. Scarce in midwinter except along the KwaZulu-Natal coast.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Pieridae

*Belenois gidica abyssinica***African Veined White**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Laeveldwitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–55 mm ♀ 40–53 mm

Notes: A common, widespread species that inhabits bushveld and woodland areas. With strong seasonal and sexual dimorphism. Both sexes feed on flowers or on damp sand or mud. Underside hindwing with veins narrowly dark brown. The base of the hindwing is yellowish in female specimens.

Flight period: Year-round, more common in late summer and autumn (Jan–May).



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Pieridae

*Belenois aurota aurota***Brown-veined White**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Grasveldwitjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–45 mm ♀ 42–50 mm

Notes: Common and widespread species that migrates in vast numbers almost every year: numbers grow in home areas until overcrowding triggers lemming-type migration, usually Dec–Feb, in a northeasterly direction. Bad weather usually brings these migrations to a halt. Hindwing veins on the underside broadly brown. Both sexes found feeding on flowers or on damp sand or mud.

Flight period: Year-round in home areas.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

Pieris brassicae

Cabbage White

Alternate common name: Large White

Afrikaans common name: Kool-witjie

Wingspan: 50–55 mm

Notes: Only South African representative of an introduced alien Palaearctic species, first recorded in 1994. Common autumn garden butterfly near Cape Town, spreading to the Eastern Cape. Sexes dimorphic. Female has two large upperside spots in the lower middle forewing whereas the male has only underside spots. Larvae feed on nasturtiums, cabbages and canola.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Aug–Nov and Mar–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O				

Family Pieridae

Belenois zochalia zochalia

Forest White

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Boswitjie

Wingspan: 40–50 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of woodland, coastal bush and forest. Males fly rapidly along forest edges whereas females generally keep to the undergrowth, seldom emerging unless to feed on flowers. The species has been recorded roosting communally at night, often with other species of pierid.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak Nov–Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Pieridae

Pontia helice helice

Meadow White

Alternate common names: Common Meadow White, African Cabbage White

Afrikaans common name: Bontrokkie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 37–43 mm

Notes: Common, widespread species found through most open habitats. Keeps low to the ground where it often settles on low plants and feeds on flowers. Males show hilltopping behaviour. Underside wing pattern distinctive: apex of forewing and veins of hindwing broadly blackish brown with yellow edging. Often seen in urban gardens.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Sept–Nov and Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

Wood White*Leptosia alcesta inalcesta***African Wood White****Alternate common name:** Large White**Afrikaans common name:** Fladderpapiertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 30–40 mm ♀ 35–42 mm

Notes: Appears green, but it is an illusion caused by a mix of black and yellow scales. The only South African pierid found in deep forest; prefers shady places in the undergrowth. As the Afrikaans common name suggests, it flies slowly with a characteristic bouncing action, frequently settling on flowers or on the ground.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Mar–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Pieridae

Dotted Borders*Mylothris agathina agathina***Common Dotted Border**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Gewone voëlent-witjie

Wingspan: ♂ 50–60 mm ♀ 52–65 mm

Notes: Widespread through most wooded habitats from bushveld to forest. Forewing base not orange (see Twin Dotted Border) on both surfaces of the wings. Frequent garden visitors. Together with the Twin Dotted Border, larvae use several species of Loranthaceae mistletoes.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Oct and Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Family Pieridae

*Mylothris rueppellii haemus***Twin Dotted Border**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Oranjevlerk voëlent-witjie

Wingspan: ♂ 48–55 mm ♀ 50–56 mm

Notes: Inhabitant of woodland and savanna on the highveld and in coastal forest. Forewing base broadly orange, on both surfaces of wings. Small black apex and distinctly dotted border, with black spots at the end of veins.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Oct and late Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Pieridae

Clouded Yellow*Colias electo electo***African Clouded Yellow**

Alternate common name: Lucerne Butterfly

Afrikaans common names: Lusernskoenlapper, Lusernvlinder

Wingspan: ♂ 35–40 mm ♀ 32–40 mm

Notes: Commonly known as the 'Clouded Yellow', this species is a minor pest on lucerne (*Medicago sativa*). Found throughout South Africa in all biomes. Often settles on flowers, among weeds, grass and even on the ground, usually with closed wings. Specimens are often found feeding on flowers.

Flight period: Continuous broods, year-round; peak Apr–Aug.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

Migrant*Catopsilia florella***African Migrant****Alternate common names:** Common Vagrant, African Vagrant**Afrikaans common name:** Afrikaanse swerwer**Wingspan:** ♂ 54–60 mm ♀ 56–66 mm

Notes: A common migrant throughout Africa. Sporadic migrations of this species have been recorded for over 100 years. Often flies in millions in a northeasterly direction across Botswana and the northern provinces of South Africa. These migrations occur from late Nov–Jan. A frequent visitor of all kinds of flowers and at damp sand. Larva feeds on the common weed *Senna didymobotrya* and its indigenous relatives.

Flight period: Continuous broods, year-round. Migrations usually occur from summer to autumn, flying in a northeasterly direction.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

Grass Yellows*Eurema desjardinsii marshalli***Angled Grass Yellow**

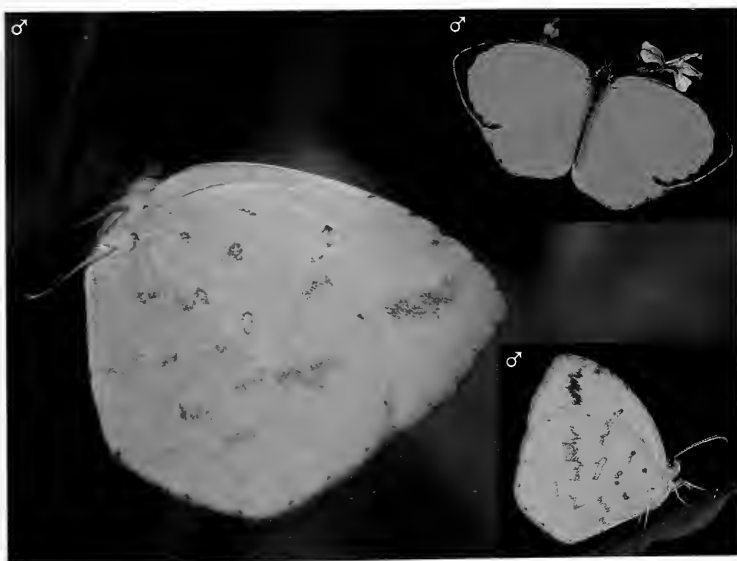
Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Reënbosgeletjie

Wingspan: ♂ 35–38 mm ♀ 37–40 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of forests and coastal bush. Hindwing outer margin distinctly angled, easily identifying this species. Feeds on flowers and damp sand.

Flight period: Continuous broods, year-round, depending on rainfall.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Pieridae

*Eurema brigitta brigitta***Broad-bordered Grass Yellow****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Grasveldgeletjie**Wingspan:** 30–35 mm

Notes: Found throughout most habitats of South Africa except the southwestern parts of the Western Cape and the Karoo. Hindwing outer margin evenly rounded (compare Angled Grass Yellow). Flight is slow and low, seldom higher than 1 m above the ground. Feeds avidly on flowers and damp sand. Like other Grass Yellows, larvae feed on the Fishbone Dwarf Cassia *Chamaecrista mimosoides* and the Small Hypericum *Hypericum aethiopicum*.

Flight period: Continuous broods, all year. Peaks in late summer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Pieridae

*Eurema hecabe solifera***Lowveld Yellow****Alternate common name:** Common Grass Yellow**Afrikaans common name:** Laeveldgeletjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 32–41 mm ♀ 34–42 mm**Notes:** A common, widespread inhabitant of open woodland with incursions into bushveld and forests. The forewing underside has a dark brown apical patch. WSF with broader dark markings than DSF.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, year-round, depending on rainfall. Peaks in late summer.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Papilionidae

Swallowtails, Ladies, Swordtails

Swallowtails*Papilio demodocus demodocus***Citrus Swallowtail****Alternate common names:** Christmas Butterfly, Orange Dog**Afrikaans common names:** Lemoenskoenlapper, Lemoenvlinder**Wingspan:** ♂ 100–120 mm ♀ 110–130 mm

Notes: Common and widespread throughout South Africa; absent from extremely arid areas. Common garden butterfly. Hindwing without tails. Males show strong hilltopping behaviour. This is perhaps the most conspicuous of all hilltopping species. The larvae, when plentiful, can do damage to citrus orchards, where they are commonly known as Orange Dogs.

Flight period: Continuous broods year-round, mainly Sept–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
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Family Papilionidae

*Papilio constantinus constantinus***Constantine's Swallowtail**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Konstantyn-se-swaelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 70–90 mm ♀ 80–95 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of woodland bushveld but sometimes also penetrating montane forest. Flies low and at random, usually 1 or 2 m above the ground, and often pauses for visits at flowers. Both sexes fond of congregating at muddy places. Black hindwing tails marked with yellow. Antennae with yellow tips (compare Forest Swallowtail). Larvae feed on species of *Vepris* and *Teclea*.

Flight period: Continuous broods during the warmer months, peak Nov–Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

*Papilio ophidicephalus***Emperor Swallowtail****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Koning-swaelstert**Wingspan:** ♂ 90–110 mm ♀ 100–120 mm

Notes: The largest butterfly found in southern Africa. An inhabitant of montane forest. Five subspecies are found in southern Africa that differ according to the extent and arrangement of their markings. Have large clubbed tails on the hindwing. Fly low (generally 1–3 m above the ground), often feeding at flowers near the ground or drinking at damp places. Like all swallowtails, their wings are kept in constant motion when feeding on nectar, but are motionless while drinking at muddy places. Males show strong territorial behaviour. Larvae feed on the Cape Chestnut *Calodendrum capense*, Perdepis *Clausena anisata* and species of *Zanthoxylum*.

Flight period: Double-brooded; spring brood (Aug–Dec) less abundant and smaller specimens than the summer brood (Jan–Apr).



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

*Papilio euphranor***Forest Swallowtail**

Alternate common name: Bush Kite Swallowtail

Afrikaans common name: Vlieënde piering

Wingspan: ♂ 80–100 mm ♀ 90–110 mm

Notes: The only *Papilio* endemic to South Africa. An inhabitant of montane evergreen forest. A fairly large species with spatulate tails. Tails unmarked. Antennae with black tips (compare Constantine's Swallowtail). Males tend to keep to the forest canopy and tree tops whereas females are most often found along forest margins, clearings or paths in search of the food plant River Wild-quince *Cryptocarya woodii* on which to lay eggs.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Jan–Apr and Sept–Dec.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

Papilio nireus lyaeus

Green-banded Swallowtail

Alternate common name: Black Velvet

Afrikaans common name: Groenlint-swaelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 75–90 mm ♀ 85–95 mm

Notes: A common and widespread woodland and forest species. Hindwing without tails. Male with a jet-black upperside with greenish blue transverse band. Female upperside brownish black with a bluish green transverse band. Readily attracted to flowers and fond of drinking on the mud at the edge of streams or pools. Also attracted to fresh animal droppings. Larvae use the same plants as the Emperor, Constantine's and Mocker Swallowtails.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peaks Nov and Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O	O	O

Family Papilionidae

Papilio dardanus cenea

Mocker Swallowtail

Alternate common name: Flying Handkerchief

Afrikaans common name: Na-aper-swaelstert

Wingspan: ♂ 80–100 mm ♀ 90–110 mm

Notes: Probably the most extensively researched and well-known butterfly mimic. Only the female is mimetic, with several female forms. A coastal and montane forest species. The male has a prominent lobed tail on the hindwing and has a cryptic, dry-leaf appearance. Males show strong territoriality and fly up and down the edges of forests in search of females with which to mate. The female is shy and generally found only near the food plant. The female is also without tails on the hindwing. Larvae use the same plants as the Emperor, Constantine's and Green-banded Swallowtails.

Flight period: Year-round in northern areas, with peaks in Dec, Jan and Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Papilionidae

Papilio echerioides echerioides

White-banded Swallowtail

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witlint-swaelstert

Wingspan: 65–75 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of montane forest. Both sexes fly near the ground, and their flight tends to be slower than that of other swallowtails. Females generally flutter slowly through the forest undergrowth in search of food plants on which to lay their eggs. Seldom seen in muddy places.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Jan–Mar and Sept–Nov.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Papilionidae

Lady, Swordtails*Graphium angolanus angolanus***Angola White-lady Swordtail**

Alternate common name: Angola White Lady

Afrikaans common name: Angola-witnooientjie

Wingspan: ♂ 65–70 mm ♀ 70–75 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of bushveld and woodland. Tailless. Fond of flowers and muddy places along streams. Unlike the White Lady, has three large white spots in the forewing cell. Males occasionally show hilltopping behaviour. Generally flies low and fast through the trees in its woodland habitat. Larvae of all Swordtails feed on Annonaceae (Custard Apples) and their relatives.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer months, peaks Nov and Feb.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Papilionidae

*Graphium antheus***Large Striped Swordtail**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Jag-swaardstert

Wingspan: ♂ 65–70 mm ♀ 70–75 mm

Notes: Inhabits coastal lowland forest and bushveld areas. Large, brilliant turquoise and black swordtail. Transverse bands in forewing cell wavy (compare Small Striped Swordtail). Hindwing with long, thin, pointed tails. Males patrol along the edges of bush as well as rocky hill slopes.

Flight period: Continuous broods in warmer months, peak Nov–Dec, sometimes flying as late as May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family Papilionidae

Graphium colonna

Mamba Swordtail

Alternate common name: Black Swordtail

Afrikaans common name: Mamba-swaardstert

Wingspan: ♂ 55–60 mm ♀ 60–65 mm

Notes: Uncommon and localised. Inhabits coastal forest in KwaZulu-Natal. The central area of the hindwing lacks the banding and spotting of other swordtails. White tail tips are very conspicuous. Both sexes feed on flowers and damp sand. Seldom fly high, keeping to about 1 m above the ground.

Flight period: Continuous broods in warmer months, Oct–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

*Graphium polícenes polícenes***Small Striped Swordtail**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Ooskus-swaardstert

Wingspan: ♂ 55–60 mm ♀ 60–65 mm

Notes: Inhabits coastal forest from the Eastern Cape to northern KwaZulu-Natal. Flight is fast, erratic and elusive. Smaller than the Large Striped Swordtail. Transverse stripes in the forewing cell are straight, not wavy (compare Large Striped Swordtail). Hindwing with long, thin, pointed tails.

Flight period: Continuous broods in warmer months, often seen as late as May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

Graphium leonidas leonidas

Veined Swordtail

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Bont-swaardstert

Wingspan: ♂ 75–80 mm ♀ 75–85 mm

Notes: Common woodland and forest species. Tailless. Both sexes feed on nectar from flowers and at damp sand. Males show strong hilltopping behaviour.

Flight period: Continuous broods, peaks in warmer months from Oct–Apr; flies midwinter in subtropical areas.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Papilionidae

*Graphium morania***White Lady****Alternate common name:** Small White-Lady Swordtail**Afrikaans common name:** Witnooientjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 50–55 mm ♀ 55–60 mm**Notes:** A bushveld and woodland species. Tailless. Smaller than the similar Angola White-Lady Swordtail, with only two large white spots in the forewing cell. Males show hilltopping behaviour.**Flight period:** Continuous broods in warmer months, Sept–May.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Hesperiidae

Policemen, Flats, Elfins, Elves, Buff-tipped Skipper, Skippers, Sandmen, Sylphs, Rangers, Darts, Night-fighters, Hoppers, Swifts, Hottentot Skippers

Policemen

Coeliades forestan

Striped Policeman

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Witbroek-konstabel

Wingspan: ♂ 42–55 mm ♀ 55–64 mm

Notes: Forewing brown. Hindwing brown with a broad white median band without black spots (compare Two-pip Policeman). Inhabits rainforests, coastal bush and savanna areas. Males show hilltopping behaviour and are known to scent-mark using a black, brush-like organ which is exerted from the anal end of the abdomen. Larva has a wide range of food plants.

Flight period: Continuous broods, all year in warmer areas; peak Sept–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O		O	

Family HesperIIDae

*Coeliades pisiistratus***Two-pip Policeman****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Dubbelkol-konstabel**Wingspan:** ♂ 55–65 mm ♀ 63–70 mm**Notes:** Underside is brown with a white hindwing band with a row of three or four black spots. Often observed feeding at flowers and occasionally sucking at mud. Females are usually observed in the vicinity of their food plants.Larva has a wide food plant range, but prefers the Lesser Moth-fruit Creeper *Sphedamnocarpus pruriens*.**Flight period:** Continuous broods, all year in warmer areas; peak Sept–Apr.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family HesperIIDae

Flats*Celaenorrhinus mokeezii***Christmas Forester**

Alternate common names: Large Flat, Large Sprite

Afrikaans common name: Kersfees-bosjagterjie

Wingspan: ♂ 40–48 mm ♀ 45–51 mm

Notes: An endemic southern African species commonly found through many of South Africa's eastern forests. Usually found around shady spots at the edges of forest clearings, glades and paths. Flight flitting and dancing, landing on leaves with wings open, sometimes on the underside of the leaf. Larva feeds on the Buckweed *Isoglossa woodii*.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Dec and (larger brood) Feb–Apr.



National Botanical Garden

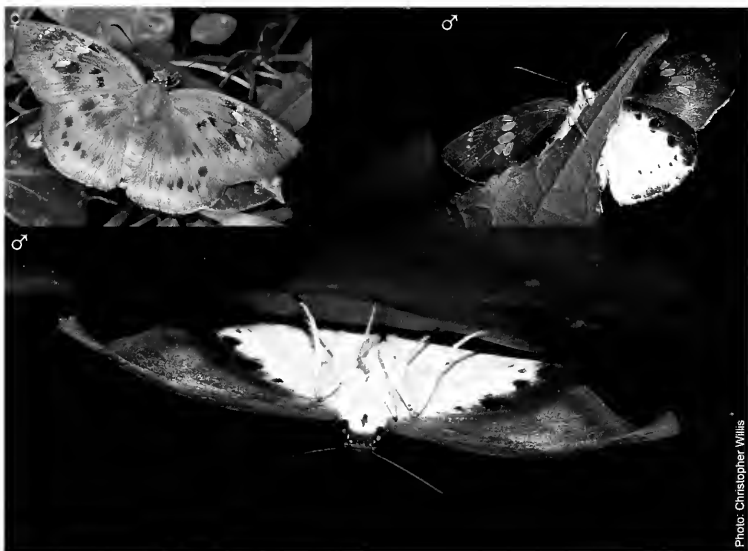
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family HesperIIDae

*Tagiades flesus***Clouded Forester****Alternate common names:** Clouded Flat, Clouded Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Skaduwee-dartelaartjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 35–47 mm ♀ 43–49 mm

Notes: Upside of wings dark brown with hyaline patches. Underside is almost completely white. Very common species in most wooded areas, both bush and rainforest. Has an erratic flight pattern and often settles on the underside of leaves, apparently 'disappearing into thin air' during the process. Is very conspicuous on the wing because of its white hindwings. Larva feeds on *Dioscorea* species.

Flight period: Year-round, more numerous in late summer and autumn.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Hesperidae

Elf

Eretis umbra umbra

Small Marbled Elf

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Kleinmarmer-kluisenaar

Wingspan: ♂ 30–32 mm ♀ 32–37 mm

Notes: Similar to the Marbled Elf, but this species is smaller, with brown forelegs instead of the white forelegs characteristic of the Marbled Elf. Usually inhabits grassland and bushveld areas, where they settle with expanded wings. Males often establish territories around a particular bush. A widespread and common species. Larvae feed on low-growing Acanthaceae such as *Justicia* and *Phaulopsis*.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, Aug–May in cooler areas.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		O

Family HesperIIDae

Elfins*Sarangesa seineri***Dark Elfin****Alternate common name:** Northern Dark Elfin**Afrikaans common name:** Donker-kaboutertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 36–38 mm ♀ 38–40 mm

Notes: The white patch on the antenna below the club is peculiar to this species. Found mainly in woodland, bushveld and savanna country. Often present on steep hillsides, but sometimes also found in dry river beds. Perch close to or on the ground with expanded wings, often on the underside of a leaf. A relatively uncommon species, but is widely distributed.

Flight period: Year-round, scarcer in winter and dry season.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O		

Family HesperIIDae

*Sarangeza motozi***Elfin Skipper**

Alternate common name: Forest Elfin

Afrikaans common name: Motozi-kaboutertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 36–38 mm ♀ 38–40 mm

Notes: Inhabits dense woodland or evergreen forest. Often found in shady places and sheltering in holes in the ground. Frequently visits damp patches. Always perches close to or on the ground with expanded wings.

Flight period: Year-round, scarcer in dry season.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family HesperIIDae

Sandmen*Spialia diomus ferax***Common Sandman**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common names: Gewone-sandmannetjie, Kwagga-sandmannetjie

Wingspan: ♂ 27–31 mm ♀ 29–33 mm

Notes: Inhabits woodland, savanna and open montane habitats, almost anywhere in South Africa. Prefers grass and bushveld areas and is scarcer in the Karoo. It is readily attracted to flowers. Males show hilltopping behaviour. Larvae feed on low-growing plants of the families Malvaceae and Sterculiaceae.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, more common in warmer months. In cool areas Aug–Apr, usually one of the first spring butterflies.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family HesperIIDae

*Spialia nanus***Dwarf Sandman****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Dwerg-sandmannetjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 18–24 mm ♀ 23–27 mm**Notes:** An inhabitant of karroid type vegetation but extends into the Western Cape. Found on flats, slopes of hills and mountains. Flight is rapid and close to the ground. Larval food plants include *Hermannia* (Sterculiaceae) and *Hibiscus* species (Malvaceae).**Flight period:** Double-brooded, peaks Mar/Apr and Sept/Oct, occasionally in summer between broods.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O				

Family HesperIIDae

*Spialia dromus***Forest Sandman****Alternate common name:** Large Grizzled Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Bos-sandmannetjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 23–29 mm ♀ 29–32 mm**Notes:** Inhabits forest margins and woodlands. Readily attracted to flowers and often frequents muddy places along streams. Males occasionally show hilltopping behaviour. Larval food plants include *Triumfetta* species (Tiliaceae).**Flight period:** Year-round, more common in the warmer months.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Hesperiidae

*Spialia spio***Mountain Sandman****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Berg-sandmannetjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 22–29 mm ♀ 28–31 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of open areas, woodland, forest margins and clearings in forests. Flight is rapid and close to the ground. Males show hilltopping behaviour. Larval food plants include species of *Hermannia* (Sterculiaceae), *Pavonia* and *Hibiscus* (Malvaceae).

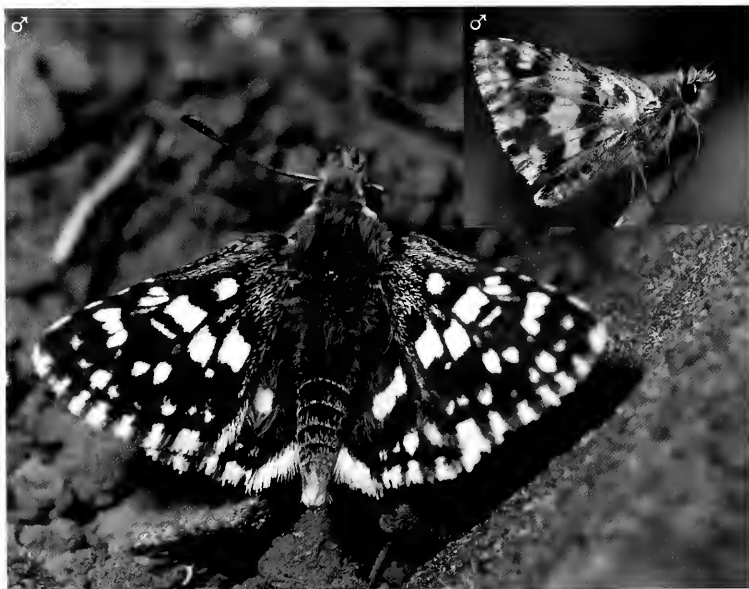
Flight period: Continuous broods; year-round in warmer areas, more common in warmer months. In Western Cape fynbos mainly Aug–Oct.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				○	○			○

Family Hesperiidae

*Spialia asterodia***Star Sandman****Alternate common name:** Asterodia Sandman**Afrikaans common names:** Sterretjie-sandmannetjie, Asterodia-sandmannetjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 21–26 mm ♀ 26–29 mm**Notes:** Generally an inhabitant of grassy hillsides, and often occurs at considerable altitudes. Seldom seen in the bushveld or in the Karoo. Fond of flowers but seldom visits muddy places.**Flight period:** Several broods, Aug–Mar, peaks midsummer.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family HesperIIDae

Sylphs*Tsitana tsita***Dismal Sylph**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Donker-walsertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 30–38 mm ♀ 32–38 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of grassy hillsides. It is a slow flier, skipping and zigzagging at the same time in any direction. Frequently rests on the stems of grass or on the ground. Males occasionally show hilltopping behaviour, although they normally establish territories in the vicinity of the larval food plants (grasses).

Flight period: Single-brooded, Dec–Mar, peak in Jan.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family HesperIIDae

*Metisella metis***Gold-spotted Sylph****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Reënbos-walsertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 26–34 mm ♀ 30–33 mm**Notes:** An inhabitant of woodland and forested areas. Often seen near the edges of forests. Males do not exhibit hilltopping behaviour and can usually be observed in open places in the bush where they establish their territories.**Flight period:** Year-round, peaks Sept–Nov and Feb–Mar; scarce in dry season in cooler areas.

National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
		O		O	O			

Family Hesperidae

*Metisella malgacha***Grassveld Sylph****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Grasveld-walsertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 25–29 mm ♀ 27–31 mm**Notes:** A slow-flying species and always keeps close to the ground. It frequently settles on grass. Males sometimes establish territories in the vicinity of the larval food plants (the grass *Ehrharta erecta*).**Flight period:** Several broods, Aug–May, most common in summer months.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O				

Family HesperIIDae

*Metisella willemi***Netted Sylph****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Willem-se-walsertjie**Wingspan:** 30–32 mm

Notes: Hindwing white to pale yellow with brown veins and cross lines giving a netted appearance. An inhabitant of grassy areas in deciduous woodland and bushveld. Usually found along rivers at the foot of hills, koppies and mountains. May also be encountered among clumps of trees on the flats. Often observed feeding at flowers. Larval food plants comprise various grasses.

Flight period: Single extended brood, Dec–May, peak Feb–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	

Family HesperIIDae

Rangers*Kedestes mohozutza***Fulvous Ranger****Alternate common name:** Harlequin Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Mohozutza-wagtertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 27–31 mm ♀ 33–42 mm

Notes: Favours short grass. Inhabits grassy slopes, montane grasslands and forest margins. Flight is quite rapid but it often settles. Often found feeding at flowers, especially *Scabiosa* species. Males do not exhibit hilltopping behaviour. Ranger larvae feed on grasses.

Flight period: Single-brooded, Nov–Mar, depending on altitude and latitude; peaks Nov–Dec.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Family Hesperiidae

*Kedestes nerva nerva***Scarce Ranger****Alternate common name:** Scarce Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Seldsame-wagtertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 27–31 mm ♀ 33–36 mm**Notes:** A local and uncommon species, inhabiting dry bush, woodland and grassland. Usually flies near the ground among grasses. It skips about quite rapidly in circles but for short distances only. Often encountered feeding on *Scabiosa columbaria* flowers along the banks of dry streams or dongas.**Flight period:** Double-brooded; weak brood Oct–Nov, stronger brood Feb–Apr.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								○

Family Hesperiidae

*Kedestes wallengrenii wallengrenii***Wallengren's Ranger****Alternate common name:** Wallengren's Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Wallengren-se-wagttertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 27–31 mm ♀ 30–35 mm

Notes: Hindwing underside is reddish brown with grey-white longitudinal stripes. An inhabitant of grassland and woodland. It is a fast flier and often disappears from view when disturbed. It is readily attracted to flowers. When not feeding it flies about the grass, resting on leaves or on the ground. Males do not appear to exhibit hilltopping behaviour.

Flight period: Double-brooded; spring brood Aug–Nov, summer Feb–Apr, sometimes overlapping.



National Botanical Garden

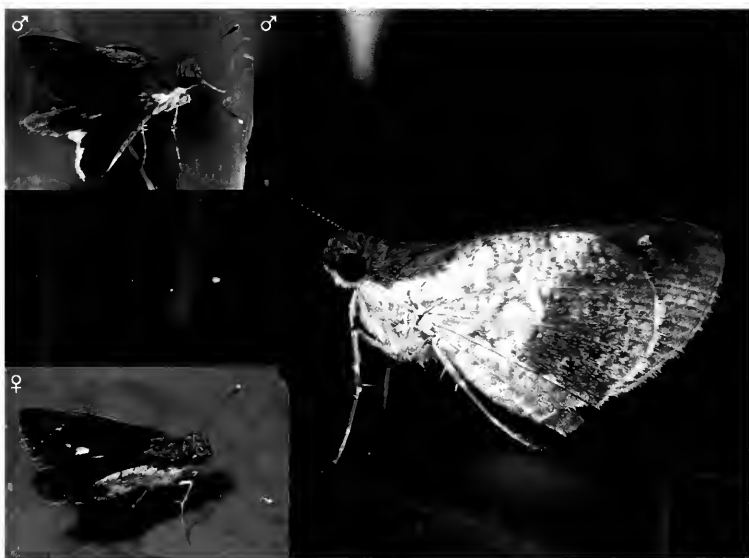
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family HesperIIDae

Dart*Acleros mackenii mackenii***Macken's Dart****Alternate common names:** Marsh Skipper, Macken's Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Macken-se-dartelaartjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 27–32 mm ♀ 29–33 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of swampy areas in forest, thick bush or undergrowth near forest streams. A very common insect in coastal bush and rainforest areas of the eastern part of the country. It is readily recognised by the white tip of its abdomen. It is a relatively slow flier and is not very active. Males establish territories along the edges of forests. Often seen perching on broad green leaves. Larvae feed on species of *Searsia* (formerly *Rhus*).

Flight period: Year-round, more common in late summer, autumn and winter than in hotter midsummer months.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O	O		

Family Hesperidae

Palm-tree Night-Fighter*Zophopetes dysmephila***Palm-tree Night-fighter**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Palmboom-skemervegter

Wingspan: ♂ 40–49 mm ♀ 45–52 mm

Notes: A large skipper with white antennae. An inhabitant of savanna, riversides and forests where its food plants, palm trees, grow. Flies at dusk, after sundown. During daylight hours specimens rest with folded wings inside leaves at the base of their food plant, *Phoenix reclinata*. Only one species found in southern Africa.

Flight period: Year-round, peak Dec–May.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O				

Family HesperIIDae

Night-fighter*Artitropa erinnys erinnys***Bush Night-fighter****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Bos-skemervegter**Wingspan:** ♂ 53–57 mm ♀ 59–63 mm

Notes: Restricted to the eastern Afrotropical Region. Inhabits rainforests, favouring forest stream areas. Flies about at sunset, but on cloudy days will visit flowers earlier in the afternoon. Males establish territories in the vicinity of the food plants (*Dracaena* species or Dragon-trees), where they can be found perching on tree trunks.

Flight period: Year-round; scarce May–Aug.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family HesperIIDae

Hoppers*Platylesches ayresii***Peppered Hopper**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Gepeperde-springertjie

Wingspan: ♂ 27–32 mm ♀ 35–38 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of grassland and bushveld. Males show hilltopping behaviour. They nearly always perch on rocks, small stones or on the ground. Its flight is fast but of short duration. Larvae feed on *Parinari capensis*.

Flight period: Continuous broods Jul–Apr, peaks Sept and Jan.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
								O

Family Hesperiidae

*Platylesches robustus robustus***Robust Hopper****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Dartel-springertjie**Wingspan:** ♂ 34–42 mm ♀ 36–44 mm

Notes: Largest of the genus. Inhabits bushveld, riverine vegetation and woodland. It is fairly local and not seen as often as some of its congeners. Males show hilltopping behaviour. Larvae feed on the Mobola-plum *Parinari curatellifolia*.

Flight period: Double-brooded, Aug–Oct and Mar–Apr; occasionally midsummer.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	

Family Hesperiidae

Swifts*Pelopidas mathias***Black-banded Swift**

Alternate common name: None

Afrikaans common name: Swartmerk-ratsvlieër

Wingspan: ♂ 36–38 mm ♀ 38–41 mm

Notes: Inhabitant of grassy woodlands and forests. Very swift on the wing, often settles on flowers to feed. Males show hilltopping behaviour. A common and widespread species. The larvae of Swifts feed on grasses.

Flight period: Year-round, scarcer in winter.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			O

Borbo fatuellus fatuellus

Alternate common name: Long-horned Skipper

Afrikaans common name: Reënbos-ratsvlieër

Wingspan: ♂ 33–42 mm ♀ 40–43 mm

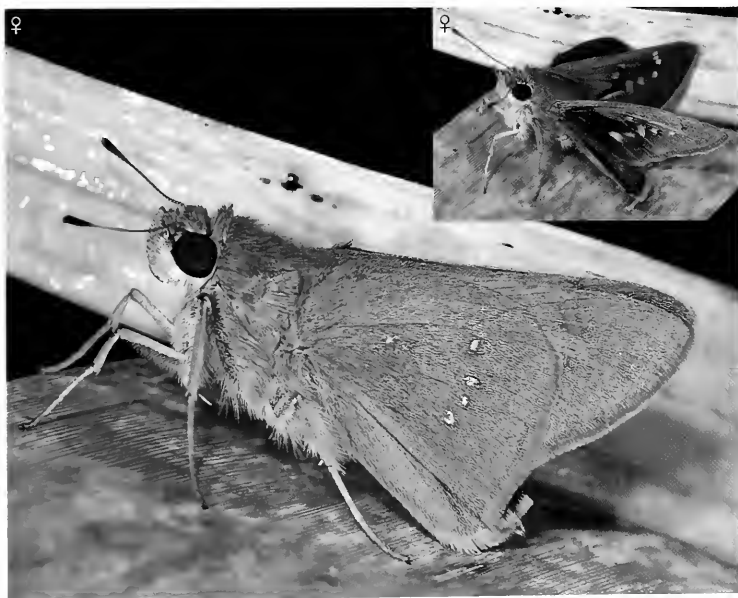
Notes: A widespread species found in most habitats, particularly woodland, forest margins and light forest. Male has no hyaline spots on the hindwings.

Flight period: Year-round, peaks Nov–Feb.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
						O	O	

Family HesperIIDae

*Pelopidas thrax inconspicua***White-banded Swift****Alternate common name:** None**Afrikaans common name:** Witmerk-ratsvlieër**Wingspan:** ♂ 42–46 mm ♀ 49–51 mm**Notes:** Inhabits woodland and forest margins. Often found in dense rainforests. Frequently visits and settles on flowers in the veld and in gardens and is also attracted to muddy places.**Flight period:** Year-round, scarcer in winter.

National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
					O			

Family Hesperiidae

Hottentot Skippers*Gegenes niso niso***Common Hottentot****Alternate common name:** Common Hottentot Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Geel-hottentot**Wingspan:** ♂ 29–33 mm ♀ 29–35 mm

Notes: Yellow-ochre underside of the wings conspicuous at rest, when wings are closed. Fond of flowers and muddy places. Males establish their territories near the larval food plants (grasses). Very common and widespread. Trimen described the Common Hottentot as an 'active and pugnacious little species'.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak Oct–Mar; in cooler areas, only Oct–Mar.



National Botanical Garden								
FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
				O	O	O	O	O

Family HesperIIDae

*Gegenes pumilio gambica***Dark Hottentot****Alternate common name:** Dark Hottentot Skipper**Afrikaans common name:** Swart-hottentot**Wingspan:** ♂ 28–36 mm ♀ 33–37 mm

Notes: An inhabitant of bushveld, preferring open areas and dry watercourses. Underside of wings paler grey-brown than the upperside. Males occasionally show hilltopping behaviour but more often establish territories near the larval food plants (grasses). Fond of flowers, muddy places and dry riverbeds. Flight quite rapid.

Flight period: Year-round in warmer areas, peak Oct–Mar; in cooler areas only Oct–Mar.



National Botanical Garden

FS	H	HP	KD	K	KZN	L	P	WS
							O	O

TOTAL	17	19	20	10	36	122	85	54	85
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Glossary

Anal angle – the angle between the outer and inner margins of the hindwing. The corresponding angle on the forewing is the inner angle.

Antennae – the feelers or elongated sensory organs attached to the head, sensitive to smell. Antennae club-tipped in butterflies, usually thread-like or feathered in moths.

Dimorphism – phenomenon that an organism can exist as one of two different forms. This may be due to male/female differences (sexual dimorphism, e.g. Common Diadem) or seasonal changes (seasonal dimorphism, e.g. Gaudy Commodore).

DSF – abbreviation for 'dry season form'. See Seasonal dimorphism.

Endemic – pertaining to a natural inhabitant, confined to a particular geographical area.

Food plant – the host plant upon which Lepidoptera larvae feed. Female butterflies often fly at random through the bush in search of suitable food plants on which to lay their eggs.

Fynbos – the dominant indigenous vegetation of the Cape Floristic Region characterised by three major growth forms (ericas, proteas and restioids).

Genitalia – organs used for either mating or oviposition (egg-laying).

Genus (pl. = genera) – a group within a family consisting of one or more closely related species.

Ground colour – the dominant colour of the wing contrasted to that of the pattern.

Hilltopping – the habit of some male butterflies of frequenting higher areas, particularly during the hottest hours of the day, e.g. Citrus Swallowtail, Striped Policeman and Veined Swordtail.

Homoptera – insects that are sometimes called 'plant lice', including aphids. They are used as food by carnivorous butterfly larvae and some adult butterflies (e.g. D'Urban's Woolly Legs) feed on their sweet secretions.

Hyaline – clear, translucent or transparent. Used to describe the clear or semitransparent scale-free patches on the wings of certain butterflies, e.g. Clear-spotted Acraea.

Labial palps – paired finger-like sensory appendages arising from the butterfly's mouthparts, situated either side of the proboscis. Labial palps are most prominent in the African Snout.

Lepidoptera – the order of scale-winged insects comprising butterflies and moths.

Lunule – a crescent-shaped marking or spot.

Marginal – adjective describing features on the outer margins of the wings.

Mimic – an organism superficially resembling another of a different species, so that one or both benefit, e.g. the female Common Diadem mimics the unpalatable African Monarch.

Ocellus (pl. ocelli) – alternate term for the eye-like spot on the wing of a butterfly.

Polymorphic – with more than two forms in the same species, e.g. Red Tip, Bushveld Purple Tip, Mocker Swallowtail and Small Orange Tip.

Proboscis – an adult butterfly's tubular mouthparts, adapted for sucking up liquids. Proboscis coiled when not in use. Adults of the Skollies (*Thestor* species) lack a fully developed proboscis and cannot feed. These butterflies tend to have short, sedentary lives spent close to the larval food source.

Seasonal dimorphism – occurrence of two distinct colour and/or size forms in a species, whose appearance is dependent on the season, e.g. Gaudy Commodore, African Veined White, Common Orange Tip and Garden Commodore.

Sexual dimorphism – genetically controlled phenomenon where males and females of the same species have a strikingly different appearance, e.g. Common Diadem, African Common White, Red Tip and Cabbage White.

Species – the primary biological unit. Members of a species share a common mate-recognition system and are reproductively isolated from other similar insect/animal groups.

Submarginal – below or near the outer margin.

Subspecies – one or more taxonomically and geographically distinct populations or races of a species, e.g. Emperor Swallowtail, Battling Glider.

Tail – a tail-like outgrowth along a vein from the outer margin of the hindwing of a butterfly.

Taxon (pl. taxa) – a taxonomic group that is sufficiently distinct to be worthy of being distinguished by a name and be ranked in a definite category.

Wingspan – the greatest width of an insect measured across the forewings, from wing tip-to-wing tip.

WSF – abbreviation for 'wet season form'. See Seasonal dimorphism.

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Indices

Scientific names

- Acleros mackenii mackenii*, 210
Acraea acara, 36
Acraea aganice, 35
Acraea aglaonice, 39
Acraea caldarena, 37
Acraea horta, 42
Acraea natalica, 44
Acraea neobule, 46
Acraea oncaea, 48
Acraea petraea, 38
Actizera lucida, 149
Aeropetes tulbaghia, 23
Alaena amazoula, 87
Aloeides aranda, 109
Aloeides damarensis, 110
Aloeides depicta, 111
Aloeides henningi, 114
Aloeides pierus, 112
Aloeides taikosama, 113
Amauris albimaculata albimaculata, 17
Amauris echeria echeria, 16
Amauris ochlea ochlea, 18
Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia, 85
Anthene amarah amarah, 119
Anthene butleri livida, 121
Anthene definita definita, 120
Artitropa erinnys erinnys, 212
Axiocerses tjoane tjoane, 107
Azanus jesous jesous, 151
Azanus moriqua, 146
Azanus natalensis, 148
Azanus ubaldus, 152
Belenois aurota aurota, 166
Belenois creona severina, 164
Belenois gidica abyssinica, 165
Belenois zochalia zochalia, 168
Bicyclus anynana anynana, 22
Bicyclus safitza safitza, 20
Borbo fatuellus fatuellus, 216
Brephidium metopis, 150
Byblia anvatara acheloia, 68
Byblia ilithyia, 69
Cacyreus dicksoni, 124
Cacyreus lingeus, 123
Cacyreus marshalli, 125
Cacyreus virilis, 126
Capys alpheus, 100
Capys disjunctus disjunctus, 101
Cassionympha cassius, 29
Cassionympha detecta, 28
Catacroptera cloanthe cloanthe, 75
Catopsilia florella, 174
Celaenorrhinus mokeezi, 193
Charaxes achaemenes achaemenes, 54
Charaxes brutus natalensis, 61
Charaxes candiope, 56
Charaxes cithaeron cithaeron, 53
Charaxes druceanus, 60
Charaxes ethalion ethalion, 59
Charaxes jasius saturnus, 55
Charaxes karkloof, 57
Charaxes varanes varanes, 58
Chilades trochylus, 153
Chrysoritis pan lysander, 116
Chrysoritis zeuxo, 115
Cigaritis ella, 104
Cigaritis mozambica, 105
Cigaritis natalensis, 106
Coeliades forestan, 191
Coeliades pisistratus, 192
Colias electo electo, 173
Colotis antevippe gavisa, 159
Colotis auxo, 163
Colotis danae annae, 160
Colotis euippe omphale, 162
Colotis evagore antigone, 161
Colotis evenina evenina, 157
Colotis ione, 156
Colotis subfasciatus subfasciatus, 158
Crudaria leroma, 117
Cupidopsis cissus cissus, 143
Cupidopsis jobates jobates, 144
Cymothoe alcimeda trimeni, 62
Danaus chrysippus orientis, 15
Deudorix antalus, 102
Dira clytus, 25
Eichochrysops hippocrates, 142
Eichochrysops messapus, 141
Eretis umbra umbra, 195

- Euchrysops dolorosa*, 140
Eurema brigitta brigitta, 176
Eurema desjardinsii marshalli, 175
Eurema hecabe solifera, 177
Eurytela dryope angulata, 70
Eurytela hiarbas angustata, 71
Gegenes niso niso, 218
Gegenes pumilio gambica, 219
Graphium angolanus angolanus, 185
Graphium antheus, 186
Graphium colonna, 187
Graphium leonidas leonidas, 189
Graphium morania, 190
Graphium policenes policenes, 188
Hamanumida daedalus, 63
Hesperiidae, 191
Heteropsis perspicua perspicua, 21
Hypolimnas anthedon wahlbergi, 73
Hypolimnas misippus, 72
Hypolycaena philippus philippus, 95
Iolaus sidus, 92
Iolaus silarus silarus, 93
Iolaus trimeni, 94
Junonia hierta cebrene, 83
Junonia natalica natalica, 80
Junonia oenone oenone, 79
Junonia orithya madagascariensis, 81
Junonia terea elgiva, 82
Junonia tugela tugela, 76
Kedestes mohozutza, 207
Kedestes nerva nerva, 208
Kedestes wallengrenii wallengrenii, 209
Lachnocnema durbanii, 89
Lampides boeticus, 133
Lepidochrysops ignota, 139
Lepidochrysops macgregori, 136
Lepidochrysops patricia, 137
Lepidochrysops plebeia plebeia, 138
Leptomyrina gorgias gorgias, 97
Leptomyrina henningi, 98
Leptomyrina hirundo, 99
Leptomyrina lara, 96
Leptosia alcesta inalcesta, 170
Leptotes babaulti, 129
Leptotes brevidentatus, 134
Leptotes pirithous pirithous, 130
Libythea labdacca laius, 86
Lycaena clarki, 118
Lycaenidae, 87
Melampias huebneri, 27
Melanitis leda helena, 19
Metisella malgacha, 205
Metisella metis, 204
Metisella willemi, 206
Mylothris agathina agathina, 171
Mylothris rueppellii haemus, 172
Myrina silenus, 103
Neptis laeta, 65
Neptis saclava marpessa, 66
Nymphalidae, 15
Papilio constantinus constantinus, 179
Papilio dardanus cenea, 183
Papilio demodocus demodocus, 178
Papilio echerioides echerioides, 184
Papilio euphranor, 181
Papilio nireus lyaeus, 182
Papilio ophidicephalus, 180
Papilionidae, 178
Paralethe dendrophilus, 24
Pardopsis punctatissima, 50
Paternympha narycia, 30
Pelopidas mathias, 215
Pelopidas thrax inconspicua, 217
Pentila tropicalis, 88
Phalanta eurytis eurytis, 52
Phalanta phalantha aethiopica, 51
Phasis clavum, 108
Pieridae, 155
Pieris brassicae, 167
Pinacopteryx eriphia eriphia, 155
Platylesches ayresii, 213
Platylesches robustus robustus, 214
Pontia helice helice, 169
Precis archesia archesia, 77
Precis octavia sesamus, 78
Protogoniomorpha parhassus, 74
Pseudacraea eurytus imitator, 64
Pseudonacaduba sichela sichela, 135
Sarangesa seineri, 196
Sarangeza motozi, 197
Sevenia boisduvali boisduvali, 67
Spialia asterodia, 202

Spialia diomus ferax, **198**
Spialia dromus, **200**
Spialia nanus, **199**
Spialia spio, **201**
Stugeta bowkeri bowkeri, **91**
Stygionympha vigilans, **31**
Stygionympha wichgrafi, **32**
Tagiades flesus, **194**
Tarsocera cassus, **26**
Tarucus sybaris sybaris, **131**
Tarucus thespis, **132**
Telchinia anacreon, **45**
Telchinia cabira, **49**
Telchinia encedon, **47**
Telchinia esebria, **41**
Telchinia rahira, **43**
Telchinia serena, **40**
Thestor braunsi, **90**
Tsitana tsita, **203**
Tuxentius melaena melaena, **128**
Uranotauma nubifer nubifer, **122**
Vanessa cardui, **84**
Ypthima asterope, **33**
Ypthima impura, **34**
Zintha hintza hintza, **127**
Zizeeria knysna, **145**
Zizina antanossa, **147**
Zizula hylax, **154**
Zophopetes dysmephila, **211**

English

common names

(current names in bold)

Acara Acraea, 36
 African Cabbage White, 169
African Clouded Yellow, 8, 173
African Common White, 164
African Grass Blue, 8, 145
 African Leaf Butterfly, 76
African Leaf Commodore, 76
African Leopard, 51
African Migrant, 8, 174
African Monarch, 8, 15
African Ringlet, 33
African Snout, 86

African Snout Butterfly, 86
 African Vagrant, 174
African Veined White, 165
African Wood White, 170
Angled Grass Yellow, 175
 Angola White Lady, 185
Angola White-lady Swordtail, 185
Aranda Copper, 109
 Asterodia Sandman, 202
Babault's Blue, 129
Battling Glider, 62
Black Heart, 122
Black-banded Swift, 215
Black-bordered Babul Blue, 146
 Black Pansy, 79
Black Pie, 128
Black-striped Hairtail, 119
 Black Swordtail, 187
 Black-tip Acraea, 37
Black-tipped Acraea, 37
 Black Velvet, 182
Blood-red Acraea, 38
 Blotched Acraea, 38
Blue Pansy, 79
Blue-spotted Charaxes, 53
 Blue-spotted Emperor, 53
Boisduval's Tree Nymph, 67
Boland Brown, 27
 Boland Copper, 108
 Bowker's Marbled Sapphire, 91
Bowker's Sapphire, 91
Brauns's Skolly, 90
 Brauns's Thestor, 90
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow, 176
Brown Commodore, 80
 Brown Pansy, 80
Brown Playboy, 102
 Brown Tree Nymph, 67
Brown-veined White, 8, 166
 Bush Beauty, 24
 Bush Blue, 123
Bush Bronze, 8, 123
 Bush Kite Swallowtail, 181
Bush Night-fighter, 212
Bushveld Charaxes, 54
 Bushveld Emperor, 54

- Bushveld Purple Tip, 156**
Bushveld Ringlet, 34
Cabbage White, 167
Cape Autumn Widow, 25
Cape Black-eye, 96
Cape Brown, 28
Chief, 16
 Chief Friar, 16
 Christmas Butterfly, 178
Christmas Forester, 193
Citrus Swallowtail, 8, 178
Clear-spotted Acraea, 39
 Clouded Flat, 194
Clouded Forester, 194
 Clouded Skipper, 194
Clover Blue, 147
 Coast Charaxes, 59
 Common African Copper, 109
 Common Barred Sailer, 65
Common Black-eye, 97
 Common Blue, 130
Common Bush Brown, 20
Common Diadem, 8, 72
Common Dotted Border, 8, 171
 Common Evening Brown, 19
Common Fig-tree Blue, 103
 Common Geranium Bronze, 125
 Common Grass Yellow, 177
Common Hairtail, 120
Common Hottentot, 8, 218
 Common Hottentot Skipper, 218
Common Joker, 68
 Common Leopard, 51
Common Meadow Blue, 143
 Common Meadow White, 169
 Common Mother-of-Pearl, 74
Common Orange Tip, 157
 Common Purple Tip, 156
Common Sailer, 65
Common Sandman, 198
Common Scarlet, 107
 Common Vagrant, 174
Common Wanderer, 35
Common Zebra Blue, 8, 130
Constantine's Swallowtail, 179
 Crimson Acraea, 38
Cupreous Blue, 141
D'Urban's Woolly Legs, 89
Damara Copper, 110
Dancing Acraea, 40
Dark Elfin, 196
 Dark Grass Blue, 147
Dark Hottentot, 219
 Dark Hottentot Skipper, 219
Depicta Copper, 111
 Diadem, 72
Dickson's Geranium Bronze, 124
 Diminutive Blue, 150
Dismal Sylph, 203
Dotted Blue, 131
 Dry Leaf Commodore, 76
Dull Copper, 112
Dusky Acraea, 41
 Dusky Blue, 135
Dusky Copper, 113
Dusky Line Blue, 135
Dwarf Sandman, 199
 Eared Commodore, 76
 Eastern Scarlet, 107
Eastern Sorrel Copper, 118
Elfin Skipper, 197
Ella's Bar, 104
 Ella's Red Blue, 104
Emperor Swallowtail, 180
 Evening Brown, 19
Eyed Bush Brown, 21
Eyed Pansy, 81
False Wanderer, 64
 Flying Handkerchief, 183
Forest Beauty, 24
 Forest Brown, 29
 Forest Elfin, 197
Forest Leopard, 52
Forest Sandman, 200
Forest Swallowtail, 181
Forest White, 168
Foxy Charaxes, 55
 Foxy Emperor, 55
Fulvous Ranger, 207
Fynbos Blue, 132
 Gaika Blue, 154
Garden Acraea, 8, 42

- Garden Commodore, 77**
 Garden Inspector, 77
Gaudy Commodore, 78
 Geranium Blue, 125
Geranium Bronze, 8, 125
Golden Piper, 70
Gold-spotted Sylph, 204
Grass Jewel, 153
 Grass Jewel Blue, 153
Grassveld Sylph, 205
Green-banded Swallowtail, 182
Green-veined Charaxes, 56
 Green-veined Emperor, 56
Guineafowl, 63
 Guinea-fowl Butterfly, 63
 Harlequin Skipper, 207
Henning's Black-eye, 98
Henning's Copper, 114
 Hillside Brown, 31
Hintza Blue, 127
 Hintza Pierrot, 127
 Impure Ringlet, 34
Jitterbug Daisy Copper, 115
 Joker, 68
Karkloof Charaxes, 57
 Karkloof Emperor, 57
 King Teracolus, 158
 Koppie Charaxes, 55
 Koppie Emperor, 55
 Large Flat, 193
 Large Grizzled Skipper, 200
 Large Sprite, 193
Large Striped Swordtail, 186
 Large White, 167
 Large White, 170
Layman, 17
 Layman Friar, 17
 Lemon Tip, 158
Lemon Traveller, 158
 Lemon Traveller Tip, 158
 Long-horned Skipper, 216
Long-horned Swift, 216
Long-tailed Admiral, 85
 Long-tailed Blue, 133
Lowveld Yellow, 177
 Lucerne Blue, 133
 Lucerne Butterfly, 173
Lysander Opal, 116
 Macchia Blue, 132
Macken's Dart, 210
 Macken's Skipper, 210
Mamba Swordtail, 187
Marsh Acraea, 43
 Marsh Patroller, 21
 Marsh Skipper, 210
McGregor's Blue, 136
 Meadow Blue, 143
Meadow White, 8, 169
 Mocker Blue, 126
Mocker Bronze, 126
Mocker Swallowtail, 183
Mother-of-Pearl, 74
 Mountain Pride, 23
Mountain Sandman, 201
Mozambique Bar, 105
 Mozambique Red Blue, 105
Namaqua Arrowhead, 108
Natal Acraea, 44
Natal Babul Blue, 148
Natal Bar, 106
 Natal Barred Blue, 106
 Natal Blue, 148
 Natal Red Bar, 106
 Natal Spotted Blue, 148
 Neobule Acraea, 46
Netted Sylph, 206
 Northern Dark Elfin, 196
Novice, 18
 Novice Friar, 18
 Odzani Blue, 140
Orange Acraea, 45
Orange-banded Protea, 100
 Orange Dog, 178
 Orange Tip, 157
 Ox-eyed Pansy, 81
Painted Lady, 8, 84
Pale Hairtail, 121
Palm-tree Night-fighter, 211
 Pan Opal, 116
Patricia Blue, 137
Pea Blue, 8, 133
Pearl Charaxes, 58

- Pearl Emperor, 58
 Peppered Hopper, 213
 Pied Piper, 71
 Pirate, 75
 Plain Tiger, 15
 Polka Dot, 50
 Poplar Leopard, 51
 Protea Scarlet, 100
 Purple-brown Hairstreak, 95
 Purple Tip, 156
 Rainforest Brown, 29
 Rayed Blue, 149
 Red-line Sapphire, 92
 Red Tip, 159
 Road Inspector, 63
 Robust Hopper, 214
 Rooibok Acraea, 48
 Russet Protea, 101
 Sabie Blue, 140
 Sabie Smoky Blue, 140
 Samba Copper, 108
 Satyr Charaxes, 59
 Satyr Emperor, 59
 Scarce Ranger, 208
 Scarce Skipper, 208
 Scarlet Tip, 160
 Short-toothed Blue, 134
 Silver-barred Charaxes, 60
 Silver-barred Emperor, 60
 Silver-spotted Grey, 117
 Silver-studded Grey, 117
 Small Hillside Brown, 30
 Small Marbled Elf, 195
 Small Orange Acraea, 40
 Small Orange Tip, 161
 Small Spotted Sailer, 66
 Small Striped Swordtail, 188
 Small White-Lady Swordtail, 190
 Smoky Orange Tip, 162
 Soldier Pansy, 82
 Sooty Blue, 145
 Southern Spotted Buff, 88
 Spotted Buff, 88
 Spotted Joker, 69
 Spotted-eye Brown, 30
 Spotted Pentila, 88
 Spotted Sailer, 66
 Spring Widow, 26
 Squinting Bush Brown, 22
 Star Sandman, 202
 Straight-line Sapphire, 93
 Streaked Copper, 112
 Striped Policeman, 191
 Sulphur Orange Tip, 163
 Table Mountain Beauty, 23
 Tailed Black-eye, 99
 Tailed Meadow Blue, 144
 Thorn-tree Blue, 146
 Tinktinkie Blue, 150
 Tiny Grass Blue, 154
 Topaz Babul Blue, 151
 Topaz Blue, 151
 Topaz-spotted Blue, 151
 Trimen's Sapphire, 94
 Twilight Brown, 19
 Twin Dotted Border, 172
 Twin-spot Blue, 138
 Two-pip Policeman, 192
 Variable Diadem, 73
 Variable Mimic, 73
 Veined Swordtail, 189
 Velvet-spotted Babul Blue, 152
 Velvet-spotted Blue, 152
 Vivid Blue, 132
 Vivid Dotted Blue, 132
 Wallengren's Ranger, 209
 Wallengren's Skipper, 209
 Wanderer False Acraea, 64
 Wandering Donkey Acraea, 46
 Western Hillside Brown, 31
 White-banded Swallowtail, 184
 White-banded Swift, 217
 White-barred Acraea, 47
 White-barred Charaxes, 61
 White-barred Emperor, 61
 White Lady, 190
 White-tipped Blue, 142
 Wichgraf's Brown, 32
 Wichgraf's Hillside Brown, 32
 Window Acraea, 48
 Yellow-banded Acraea, 49
 Yellow Pansy, 8, 83

Yellow Zulu, 87
Zebra White, 155
Zulu Blue, 139

Afrikaans common names

Aasbloutjie, 144
 Acara-rooitjie, 36
 Afrikaanse gewone witjie, 164
 Afrikaanse-ringetjie, 33
 Afrikaanse swerwer, 174
 Alsie-witkoppie, 62
 Angola-witnooientjie, 185
 Aranda-kopervlerkie, 109
 Asterodia-sandmannetjie, 202
 Babault-se-ertjiebloutjie, 129
 Bergnooientjie, 23
 Berg-sandmannetjie, 201
 Bleek-kortstertjie, 121
 Bloed-rooitjie, 38
 Blou-gesiggie, 79
 Blouglans, 72
 Boerbok-rooitjie, 41
 Boisduval-se-boombruinjie, 67
 Boland-bruinjie, 27
 Bont-bloutjie, 128
 Bontrokke, 169
 Bont-swaardstert, 189
 Bos-gesiggie, 82
 Bos-malvabloutjie, 123
 Bosprag, 24
 Bosprins-dubbelstert, 53
 Bos-sandmannetjie, 200
 Bos-skemervegter, 212
 Bosveld-dubbelstert, 54
 Bosveld-perspuntjie, 156
 Boswitjie, 168
 Bowker-se-marmersaffier, 91
 Brauns-se-skollie, 90
 Bruin-spelertjie, 102
 D'Urban-se-wolpootjie, 89
 Damara-kopervlerkie, 110
 Dartel-springertjie, 214
 Depicta-kopervlerkie, 111
 Dickson-se-malvabloutjie, 124
 Donker-bloutjie, 135
 Donker-kaboutertjie, 196
 Donker-kopervlerkie, 113
 Donker-kortstertjie, 120
 Donkeroranjepuntjie, 162
 Donker-walsertjie, 203
 Doringboom-bloutjie, 146
 Dowwe-kopervlerkie, 112
 Dubbelkol-bloutjie, 138
 Dubbelkol-konstabel, 192
 Duwweltjie-bloutjie, 145
 Dwaalesel-rooitjie, 46
 Dwerf-sandmannetjie, 199
 Ella-se-streepvlerkie, 104
 Fladderpapiertjie, 170
 Fluweelkol-bloutjie, 152
 Fynbos-spikkelbloutjie, 132
 Gaika-bloutjie, 154
 Geel-gesiggie, 83
 Geel-hottentot, 218
 Geelsmous, 158
 Geelstreep-rooitjie, 49
 Geel-zoeloe, 87
 Gepeperde-springertjie, 213
 Gewone-ertjiebloutjie, 130
 Gewone-sandmannetjie, 198
 Gewone-swartog, 97
 Gewone voëlent-witjie, 171
 Grasjuweeltjie, 153
 Grasveldgeletjie, 176
 Grasveld-walsertjie, 205
 Grasveldwitjie, 166
 Groenlint-swaelstert, 182
 Hemels-bloutjie, 151
 Henning-se-kopervlerkie, 114
 Henning-se-swartog, 98
 Hintza-bloutjie, 127
 Hoofmonnik, 16
 Jag-swaardstert, 186
 Kaapse-bosbruinjie, 28
 Kaapse-herfsweduwee, 25
 Kaapse-lenteweduwee, 26
 Kaapse-swartog, 96
 Karkloof-dubbelstert, 57
 Kersfees-bosjagterjie, 193
 Klawer-bloutjie, 147

- Kleinmarmer-kluisenaar, 195
 Kleinoranjepuntjie, 161
 Kleinoranje-rooitjie, 40
 Koloog-bruintjie, 30
 Koning-swaelstert, 180
 Konstantyn-se-swaelstert, 179
 Kool-witjie, 167
 Koperbloutjie, 141
 Koppie-dubbelstert, 55
 Kortgetande-bloutjie, 134
 Kwagga, 155
 Kwagga-sandmanneljie, 198
 Laeveldgeletjie, 177
 Laeveldwitjie, 165
 Langstert-bosnooientjie, 85
 Langstert-swartogje, 99
 Leliegrasvegter, 69
 Lemoenskoenlapper, 178
 Lemoenvlinder, 178
 Lusern-bloutjie, 133
 Lusernskoenlapper, 173
 Lusernvlinder, 173
 Lysander-opaal, 116
 Macken-se-dartelaartjie, 210
 Malvabloutjie, 125
 Mamba-swaardstert, 187
 McGregor-se-bloutjie, 136
 Melkbosskoelapper, 15
 Moeras-rooitjie, 43
 Moeraswagter, 21
 Mohozutza-wagtertjie, 207
 Mosambiek-streepvlerkie, 105
 Motozi-kaboutertjie, 197
 Na-aper, 72
 Na-aper-malvabloutjie, 126
 Na-aper-swaelstert, 183
 Natal-gesiggie, 80
 Natalse-bloutjie, 148
 Natalse-rooitjie, 44
 Natalse-streepvlerkie, 106
 Ooskus-swaardstert, 188
 Oostelike-kleinkopervlerkie, 118
 Oranjaband-suikerbossie, 100
 Oranjelint-bosvlieër, 70
 Oranjepuntjie, 157
 Oranje-rooitjie, 45
 Oranjevlerk voëlent-witjie, 172
 Ouheks, 17
 Outannie, 18
 Padwagtertjie, 81
 Palmboom-skemervegter, 211
 Patricia-bloutjie, 137
 Pêrel-dubbelstert, 58
 Perlemoenskoenlapper, 74
 Perlemoenvlinder, 74
 Persbruin-stertbloutjie, 95
 Polkastippel, 50
 Populierluiperd, 51
 Ralie-rooivlerkie, 107
 Reënbosgeletjie, 175
 Reënbos-ratsvlieër, 216
 Reënbos-swerwer, 65
 Reënbos-walsertjie, 204
 Reënwood-bosbruintjie, 29
 Reguitlyn-saffier, 93
 Rooibokkie-rooitjie, 48
 Rooi-en-blou-blaarvlerk, 78
 Rooipuntjie, 159
 Rooistreep-saffier, 92
 Rotsblaarvlerk, 77
 Sabie-dowwebloutjie, 140
 Samba-pylpuntjie, 108
 Sannie-se-suikerbossie, 101
 Satier-dubbelstert, 59
 Seerower, 75
 Seldsame-wagtertjie, 208
 Silwerstreep-dubbelstert, 60
 Skaduwee-dartelaartjie, 194
 Skaduwee-valsrooitjie, 64
 Skarlakenpuntjie, 160
 Skeeloo-g-bosbruintjie, 22
 Skelm-dubbelstert, 56
 Skemer-bruintjie, 19
 Snuitskoenlapper, 86
 Snuitvlinder, 86
 Sondagsrokkie, 84
 Spikkelbloutjie, 131
 Spikkel-geelvlerkie, 88
 Spikkel-swerwer, 66
 Spikkel-valetjie, 117
 Sterretjie-sandmanneljie, 202
 Suidkus-kopervlerkie, 115

- Suikerbossie, 100
Suurlemoensmous, 158
Swaeloranjepuntjie, 163
Swart-bontetjie, 128
Swartbont-rooitjie, 35
Swart-bosbruittjie, 20
Swart-hartbloutjie, 122
Swart-hottentot, 219
Swartmerk-ratsvlieër, 215
Swartpunt-rooitjie, 37
Swartstreep-kortstertjie, 119
Tarentaaltjie, 63
Tinktinkie-bloutjie, 150
Tolliedgrasvegter, 68
Toordokter, 16
Trimen-se-saffier, 94
Tugela-blaarvlerk, 76
Tuin-rooitjie, 42
Vaal-kortstertjie, 121
Venster-rooitjie, 39
Verneukertjie, 73
Vleibloutjie, 143
Vlieëndepiering, 181
Vuil-ringetjie, 34
Vyeboombloutjie, 103
Wallengren-se-wagtertjie, 209
Westelike-rantbruittjie, 31
Wichgraf-se-rantbruittjie, 32
Willem-se-walsertjie, 206
Witbroek-konstabel, 191
Witlint-bosvlieër, 71
Witlint-swaelsert, 184
Witmerk-ratsvlieër, 217
Witnooientjie, 190
Witpunt-koperbloutjie, 142
Witstreep-bloutjie, 149
Witstreep-dubbelstert, 61
Witstreep-rooitjie, 47
Woudluiperd, 52
Zoeloe-bloutjie, 139





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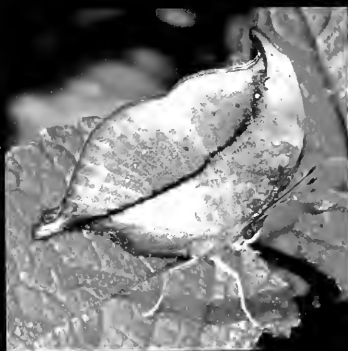
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